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SUNDAY

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 118

APRIL 27, 2008

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



## OPINION METER

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the closing of  
Hollywood Theaters  
is on the quality of life  
on the islands?

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## INSIDE



### Urban Garden

If you live in the city, you might have a fire escape, which makes it an ideal place for an urban garden.

### GOOD HOUSEKEEPING...

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### Tractor Mishap

A tractor trailer that witnesses said didn't seem to slow down rammed into a crowded bus shelter, killing two people.

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### Bridal Fair

The islands' first ever Bridal Fair and Party Exhibit kicked off yesterday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

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# US House to take up S.2739

By AGNES E. DONATO  
agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

### STARTING 'EM YOUNG

Kagman Elementary School students perform a traditional dance number on the stage after participating in the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival Parade of Cultures on Beach Road from Susupe Beach Park to Civic Center Saturday morning.

## 'NMI govt must pay \$51M a year to keep Fund afloat'

By AGNES E. DONATO  
agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The central government must pay \$51.62 million a year to the NMI Retirement Fund to ensure the defined benefit plan stays afloat, according to the Fund's actuarial consultant.



Porter

The actuary-recommended employer contribution is 37.39 percent of the government's annual payroll, a slight increase from the current rate of 36.77 percent.

The annual contribution also represents nearly one third of the revenue the government expects to collect this fiscal year.

See **FUND'S** on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Alexander Takeuo of Kagman Village holds a protest placard in front of the Legislature building on Capital Hill as the NMI Retirement Fund presentation on its annual actuarial report is ongoing inside the House chamber Friday.

The U.S. House of Representatives is set to deliberate the bill federalizing the commonwealth's immigration control this week.

The House calendar for the coming week shows that S. 2739 is one of 13 bills to be on the floor on Tuesday, April 29, in Washington, D.C.

The representatives will meet at 12:30pm for morning hour debate and 2pm for legislative business. Votes are expected at 6:30pm, which is at 4:30am Wednesday on Saipan.

See **FEDERALIZATION** on Page 4

## Federal rebates going out Monday

By TOM RAUM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush said tax rebates will start going out Monday, earlier than previously announced, and should help Americans cope with rising gasoline and food prices, as well as aid a slumping economy.

Democrats said they were glad the rebate checks were about to go out, but suggested that multinational oil companies were not among the businesses the stimulus package was originally designed to help.

"Starting Monday, the effects of the stimulus will begin to reach millions of households across our country," Bush said Friday in remarks on the South Lawn of the White House.

Those first rebates will be directly deposited into people's bank accounts. The Internal Revenue Service had been saying direct deposits wouldn't start until next Friday. Bush said paper checks would begin going out on May 9, a week earlier than previously announced.

See **BUSH** on Page 4



# Around the CNMI



## PARADE OF CULTURES

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

San Vicente Elementary School and Kagman Elementary School students grace the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival Parade of Cultures on Beach Road from Susupe Beach Park to Civic Center Saturday morning.



San Vicente Elementary School dancers perform a dance number for the judges during the parade.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Inatuas Cultural Dancers march toward the festival grounds at the Civic Center Saturday morning.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Last year's Parade of Cultures Float Competition winner, the Borja family, once again grace the annual event.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Yap Delegation members entertain the crowd.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Clad in a traditional Carolinian attire a San Vicente Elementary School student stand beside the replica of a latte stone onboard their float during the parade.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Filipino community members participate in the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival Parade of Cultures.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

2007 Little Miss Marianas Kayla Sablan Borja and Little Miss Marianas Princess Cassandra Tate Tudela Royal lead the parade followed by members of the Guam delegations.


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# San Nicolas seeks reprieve for homesteaders

A senator is seeking a two-year reprieve for homesteaders who are at risk of losing their homestead permits.

Sen. Henry San Nicolas from Tinian has introduced legislation to suspend the law on the revocation of homestead permits for two years.

San Nicolas says in his bill that

many homesteaders working in government stand to lose their homestead permits because work-hour cuts have negatively affected their financial ability to comply with homestead regulations.

He adds that relief must be given until the homesteaders "personal economic and financial situation improves along

with the economy."

Under the law, a homestead recipient is required to complete a three-year homesteading period before he or she can receive a compliance certificate and quitclaim deed.

A homesteader should have built a house and occupied it within the two years after the

homestead permit is issued. The law also requires the homesteader to continue occupying that house throughout the third year.

Homesteaders are prohibited from leasing, assigning, selling, or transferring the homestead lot during the permit period.

The homestead program was created to assist needy residents

to purchase homes and lots in order construct safe and decent housing.

MPLA has two types of homestead programs-the village and agricultural homestead programs. The village homestead program allows eligible

applicants ample public land lot for the construction of a residential dwelling. The agricultural homestead program allows eligible applicants a sizable lot for the development and maintenance of farms crops. *(Agnes E. Donato)*

## 'Zoning Board authorized to amend zoning districts'

Saipan lawmakers have adopted a resolution affirming the authority of the Zoning Board to change zoning district boundaries.

The resolution came in response to recent requests from businesses for changes in the zoning classification of specific locations on Saipan.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation noted that the Zoning Code, as passed by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, granted the Saipan Zoning

Board the authority to initiate and make determinations on changes in land use district boundaries. The Zoning Board also could amend the zoning code.

The delegation also urged the Zoning Board to make changes in land use district boundaries after adequate public notice and public comment. The delegation added that the Zoning Board should immediately inform it after making any changes.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes, who sponsored the resolution, said the document was

written to remind the public that the delegation "was not asleep" when it passed the Saipan Zoning Law in the 15th Legislature.

The House of Representatives recently passed two resolutions asking the Zoning Board to amend the zoning plan for one lot in Kagman, and for a micro-brewery on Capital Hill.

Rep. Tina Sablan has opposed both legislative requests for spot zoning, saying the resolutions were tantamount to exerting undue influence on the Zoning Board.

According to Sablan, there is already a process in place for appeals to the board to consider amendments to the zoning plan. The board is currently entertaining such requests.

"We should respect the laws that we have created and the processes that are in place, and allow agencies to do their jobs," said Sablan, who voted against the resolution. *(Agnes E. Donato)*

## Chief Justice pays a visit to MBA class

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
Rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan visited the Marianas Baptist Academy on Friday to talk with students on the great responsibilities that come with being or becoming a chief justice or judge.

Demapan shared also the difficulty and the financial cost it takes for chief justices and judges to be able to go to school, and the seriousness and dedication one would have to accomplish such a goal.

Eleventh grader and mock trial member Dencio Manglona said he learned so much with

Demapan's brief visit, such as the case of Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura and the other tough decisions chief justices and judges make to make the CNMI a better and safer place to live.

"I learned a lot about many of the current issues the CNMI is facing and how there have been many attacks made against the judicial branch," Manglona said.

Demapan shared that he spent three year in medical school before pursuing a career in law where his heart truly was.

MBA principal Ramir Trinidad said that, of the 20 years he has know Demapan, he has al-

ways shown his strong support for the school.

"He strongly supports us in all of our activities and believes our students are doing very well," Trinidad said.

"The students were very delighted to have someone of Demapan's stature speak and encourage them to serve the public," Trinidad said.

## US House approves Coast Guard Authorization Act

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—By an overwhelming majority, the U.S. House of Representatives passed on Thursday H.R. 2830, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007, which included an amendment sponsored by Guam Rep. Madeleine Bordallo that would keep the U.S. Coast Guard from sending vessels homeported on Guam to foreign shipyards for repair, overhauls and maintenance.

Bordallo's amendment, made part of a Manager's amendment offered by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chair James Oberstar of Minnesota, changes current law and recognizes Guam as a valid U.S. port for the purposes of repairs, overhaul and maintenance of Coast Guard vessels.

H.R. 2830, passed by a vote of 395-7, reauthorizes key U.S. Coast Guard programs and addresses policy regarding its operations. The U.S. Senate will soon consider, S. 1892, their version of the Coast Guard Re-authorization Act.

"I thank Chairman Oberstar

for supporting the Repair American amendment that I sponsored. The amendment protects our national security interests and important jobs on Guam," said Bordallo.

Current law does not recognize Guam as a U.S. port for the purposes of repairs, overhaul and maintenance of Coast Guard vessels. As a result, the Coast Guard cutter Sequoia is scheduled to soon undergo its first major repair at a foreign port with foreign workers.

Bordallo believes that sending vessels to foreign yards when there is capable U.S. shipyard, like the Guam Shipyard, sets a bad precedent and is bad policy. The decision to send the Sequoia to a foreign yard for repair represents the first time a Coast Guard cutter will have left Guam for a major availability outside of the Guam Shipyard since Bordallo took office in 2003.

"This move jeopardizes American jobs and the critical ship repair capability on Guam," Bordallo said.

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# Federalization bill set for US House action

From Page 1

The lower chamber is expected to pass the Senate omnibus bill, which contains about House-approved measures covering public lands, national parks, water resources and territorial issues.

Once the bill clears the House, it will be sent to the president

for his action and will then become law.

The bill includes provisions to have Washington take over the CNMI's immigration system. It would also give the commonwealth a congressional delegate with limited voting powers. Currently, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District

of Columbia have a delegate in the House.

The Fitial administration and the local private sector oppose the immigration bill, saying it is too restrictive and would further damage the CNMI's struggling economy.

The fear is that a federalized immigration system would make it difficult for the CNMI

to hire alien workers to fill jobs on the islands. Local officials are also concerned the CNMI will lose its edge as a destination for Russian and Chinese tourists.

But proponents believe the bill would address border control issues and long-standing labor abuse problems in the commonwealth.

Guam is seen to benefit from the bill, particularly from a provision that would unify Guam and the CNMI under a regional visa-waiver program. Tourists entering Guam or the CNMI under the program will be able to stay in either location, or any combination of both locations for up to 45 days. This is an extension of Guam's current visa

waiver program, which provides for a 15-day period of stay.

The bill also has provisions that would exempt the CNMI and Guam from the cap on the number of temporary work visas issued nationwide. This is expected to address the expected labor shortages for the planned military buildup in the territory.

## Fund's unfunded liability now at \$514M—actuary

From Page 1

Dylan Porter, director and consulting actuary at Buck Consultants, made a presentation on the 2006 actuarial valuation to the CNMI Legislature on Friday. Retirees were in the audience.

Porter reported that as of Oct. 1, 2006, the Retirement Fund has an accrued liability of \$987.15 million. But the Fund only has assets amounting to \$472.7 million. This results in an unfunded liability of \$514.46 million.

In order to achieve full funding of the defined benefit plan by the recently adjusted 2045 deadline, the government must

contribute yearly amortization of \$38.17 million, plus \$10.35 million in normal payroll contribution, \$1.24 million in interest on unpaid contributions, and \$1.5 million for administration expenses.

"If the government make these payments, the Retirement Fund should remain healthy," said Porter.

The reality, however, is that the central government has not paid any contributions to the Fund since 2006. And the lack of money coming into the pension program is forcing administrators to liquidate assets to pay biweekly benefits.

This year alone, the Fund

will withdraw \$45 million to pay retirees and annuitants. If the drawdowns continue at the current rate, Fund assets will go under in less than 10 years.

Juan T. Guerrero, chairman of the Fund board of trustees, said the drawdowns not only eat away at the assets, they also limit the Fund's ability to make strategic investments and expand the capital.

Not surprisingly, retirees are worried. "This is horrible, frightening," said Sapuro Rayphand, who retired in 2005 after working for the CNMI government for 23 years. Rayphand now relies on his pension for income.

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### OPA staff to visit Rota, Tinian

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Rota on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 and on Tinian on Thursday, May 1, 2008, to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials. Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office from 8am to 3:30pm on April 29. Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Mayor's Office from 8am to 4:30pm on May 1. All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services. (OPA)

#### MHS Class of '83 reunion reminder

To all MHS Class of 1983: Our 25th Reunion is just a few weeks away. Tickets are still on sale. Please contact your committee members to purchase your tickets before the event. Buy now so you won't have to pay additional \$5 at the door.

You may contact any of the Steering Committee Members for details: Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665; Viola Kaipat at 483-0214; Ed Camacho at 483-5262; Jane Tudela at 234-9571; Frances Mildred Cruz at 483-0995; Ester Teregeyo at 236-9777; Ben Sablan at 287-1480; Diego Songsong at 287-4300. (PR)

#### Live-fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office and U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam said that the U.S. military would be conducting live-fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla from April 25 to 30, 2008, from 7am to 1am.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

#### Math placement tests set

The Northern Marianas College will conduct math placement tests on the following dates:

May 20	10am – 12pm	Room D-1
May 27	10am – 12pm	Room D-1
May 29	5pm – 7pm	Room: D-1
Aug. 12	10am – 12pm	Room: D-1
	5pm – 7pm	Room: D-1
Aug. 14	10am – 12pm	Room: D-1
	5pm – 7pm	Room: D-1
Aug. 19	10am – 12pm	Room: D-1
Aug. 21	5pm – 7pm	Room: D-1

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee for the Math Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (M-F, 9:00am–4:00pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee). NMC students are not allowed to take the placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for NMC students who have NOT taken a math class within one year of taking the math placement test.

No reservations needed – first come first served. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting times listed above.

If you have any questions, call the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1200 or 1212. (NMC)

#### NMC hosts booth at Flame Tree Festival

The Northern Marianas College will be participating in the Flame Tree Arts Festival by hosting an information booth for prospective students. Those interested in learning more about any of the degree or certificate programs offered at NMC can stop by Booth A50. Those who pick up an admission application at the NMC Booth qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived. Prospective students are highly encouraged to take advantage of this offer.

Graduates of the Northern Marianas College are also asked to sign up with the NMC Alumni Association at Booth A50. Questions regarding admission can be directed to Ms. Rosaline Cepeda at rosalincec@nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498 ext. 1524. (NMC)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Carl Dela Cruz, second from right, poses for a picture with his parents, Darnel and Nora, his brother Kale and his tennis coach, Peter Loyola, left, during the celebration of his 9th birthday at Pizza Hut yesterday.

## Bush says rebates will be issued Monday

From Page 1

"The money is going to help Americans offset the high prices we're seeing at the gas pump, the grocery store, and also give our economy a boost to help us pull out of this economic slowdown," Bush said.

Bush's emphasis on fuel and food prices differed from other comments he's made since signing the economic stimulus legislation, intended to aid the economy by boosting overall consumer spending—which accounts for roughly two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

Bush has suggested the rebates could trigger a spending spree. "When the money reaches the American people, we expect they will use it to boost consumer spending," he said last month.

By saying expressly that people could use these one-time checks to pay for such necessities as food and gas, Bush underscored the deepening challenges facing the economy.

Democrats were quick to pick up on the change of focus.

"It's galling to think that taxpayers' stimulus checks will be lining the pockets of OPEC. The sad truth is that the average American family will spend almost their entire stimulus check on higher gas prices this year," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-

N.Y., chairman of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress.

OPEC is the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"Unless the administration gets OPEC to increase oil supply, American consumers are going to be in for a scorching summer of \$4 gasoline with no relief in sight," Schumer said.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., agreed that people "need this rebate to cope with the rising cost of gas and groceries." She said that, while the rebates would help to get the economy moving, there was a need for a second stimulus package "and we have begun some conversation with the administration and Republicans."

As he had earlier in the week, Bush used the word "slowdown" to describe the state of the economy. He has denied that the nation is in a recession, although many economists say it is.

"It's obvious our economy is in a slowdown. But, fortunately, we recognized the signs early and took action," Bush said.

The rebates—up to \$600 for an individual, \$1,200 for a couple and an additional \$300 for each dependent child—are the centerpiece of the government's \$168 billion stimulus package, enacted in February. Roughly 130 million households are expected to get them.

Bush made the comments

before boarding his helicopter at the start of a day trip to Connecticut.

People must file a tax return for their 2007 income to be eligible for a rebate check.

The IRS now says all checks for those who filed tax returns on time are scheduled to be deposited or mailed by July 11.

The economy—burdened by the collapse of home prices, a financial and credit crisis, and now rising energy and food prices—grew at an anemic 0.6 percent in the final three months of last year and is believed to have gotten even weaker in the first three months of this year.

The government will report on the first quarter's performance next week.

With the economy faltering, the nation's unemployment rate has climbed to 5.1 percent, the highest since September 2005, when it suffered from the devastating blows of the Gulf Coast hurricanes. Job losses in the first three months of this year neared the quarter-million mark.

Foreclosures have surged to record highs and financial companies have taken multibillion losses on mortgage investments that soured. The situation has sent a tremor through Wall Street and has sent the administration, Congress and presidential contenders looking for ways to provide relief.



## May is Tourism Month in the Commonwealth

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Acting Gov. Tim P. Villagomez underscored the importance of the tourism industry to the Commonwealth during a proclamation signing held at the Governor's Office on Friday, declaring May as Tourism Month.

Villagomez urged residents and visitors alike to observe Tourism Month by participating in ceremonies and activities and celebrating the month's theme, "Tourism is Everybody's Business."

Villagomez stressed the unique significance of tourism to the Commonwealth, saying that the industry contributes not only to economic prosperity and employment, but also to international trade and understanding.

"I call upon all the people of the CNMI and visitors to observe this month with a renewed and keen sense of value in tourism and how each and everyone of us has a direct stake in a thriving and sustainable tourism industry through improving the quality of life of our people now and into the future," Villagomez said.

This year, the Marianas Visitors Authority has lined up a series of activities that are aimed at luring more tourists to the islands.

On April 24, MVA conducted a beach cleanup with its tourism partners, JSTA and KTAS, to prepare the islands for Golden Week. MVA gave out Tourism Month t-shirts to the first 100 volunteers that showed up for the cleanups.

Every Saturday beginning May 3 through May 31, the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden will be held at the American Memorial Park from 6pm to 10pm. The event will feature local and international cuisine sold by participating hotel and local restaurant outlets.

On May 31, Tourism Month "Ayuda" Mountain Bike Race will take place from the AMP to Mt. Tapochau and back. The mountain bike race will also have a short course for children 12 and under. All proceeds from this event will be donated to a non-profit organization chosen by the MVA.

Interviews with key people in the CNMI tourism industry will also be featured in local newspapers explaining the importance of tourism to the economy and community.

A "Did You Know" Radio Trivia Program will be aired regularly throughout the month of May. The program is aimed at educating the public on the values and benefits the CNMI's tourism industry brings. Questions about the facts will be asked a radio DJ at a later date and winners will receive prizes courtesy of MVA.

Villagomez said that in recognition of the unique significance of the tourism industry in the lives of people of the CNMI, "let us remind ourselves that 'Tourism is Everybody's Business' and I ask each and everyone of us to do a small part in creating a magical, memorable experience for all our visitors by smiling, greeting, and personifying the authentic and renowned Hafa adai, Tiroow and Olomwaay hospitality and spirit everyday."

## Beach Road revs up for 2nd Car Rally

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

*Beach Road Magazine* is revving up for its second annual car rally set for May 24.

*Beach Road Magazine* account manager Susan Marchitti, who is also the event's overall coordinator, said that people were raving about last year's car rally, prompting them to hold the event again this year.

"I'm really hoping that we can get as much participants if not more for this year," Marchitti said in an interview.

She said the event promises all sorts of fun and surprises and even bigger cash prizes.

Last year's car rally drew at least 13 cars. This year, *Beach Road* aims to attract more.

According to Marchitti, the car rally will take the participants to interesting

points around the island, testing their IQ and scavenger hunting skills.

"It's a fun event. Everyone who joined last year said they had lots of fun and asked us to do the event again," Marchitti said.

Individuals who are at least 16 years old are invited to join the event, provided they turn in a parental consent form prior to the event.

Driver's licenses and car registrations will be checked.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Car Rally registration is \$15 for each car. Forms can be picked up at the Beach Road office at the Transpac Business Center in Gualo Rai.

Individuals may also call the office and they will fax you a registration form during regular business hours from 8am to 5pm.

The deadline for registration is May 22.



### GOLD MEDAL WINNER

A very happy Reece Brown of Saipan American Education Foundation (SAEF) School receives a gold medal in the final ITS competition of the year and prepares to compete in Lincoln, Nebraska this summer, along with other gold medal winners from the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## MVA goes on three-city promo tour in Japan

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently completed an annual three city seminar series in Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka, Japan. The show was attended by travel agents and the media in Japan. There were 113 people in attendance in Tokyo, 88 in Nagoya and 80 in Osaka. This tour is done annually to provide information about promotional activities in the CNMI.

MVA provided information about airline seat capacity in the current day compared to 2006 so that the agents and media are aware of the air seat challenge. MVA also presented information about campaigns in the CNMI to attract the Japanese traveler including Diving, Active Senior and Happy Children in Paradise. The agents and media were also updated on the islands new restaurants that have opened.

Representing MVA were MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, MVA board member Yoichi Matsumura and MVA marketing specialist Hiroko



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas Visitors Authority conducts a seminar in Osaka, Japan.

Tenorio. MVA representatives were interviewed by newspapers, travel trade magazines and *Hanako Magazine*.

"MVA continues to promote our islands to our number one source market through many

creative mediums including this recently concluded tour," said Tenorio. "With the outbound Japan market numbers on the decline and the number of global destinations Saipan, Tinian and Rota compete with,

it is vitally important to promote our islands in the Japan market."

MVA would like to offer its appreciation for all the members that supported these efforts. (MVA)

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 118

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### An inkling of a thaw

**H**istory can comfort or afflict us, and affliction was the order of the day Thursday as Armenians around the world commemorating the genocide of their people by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1917 were met by Turks protesting that the genocide never took place.

The argument over remembrance and denial of the Armenian genocide has in recent years moved from France to the U.S. Congress and now to Israel, which faces its own moral and political dilemmas in deciding whether to debate the issue in the Knesset. Turkey is strongly lobbying to prevent such a debate. Like the United States, Israel is now torn between its commitment to confront genocide deniers of all kinds and its geopolitical interest in maintaining relations with its only Muslim ally.

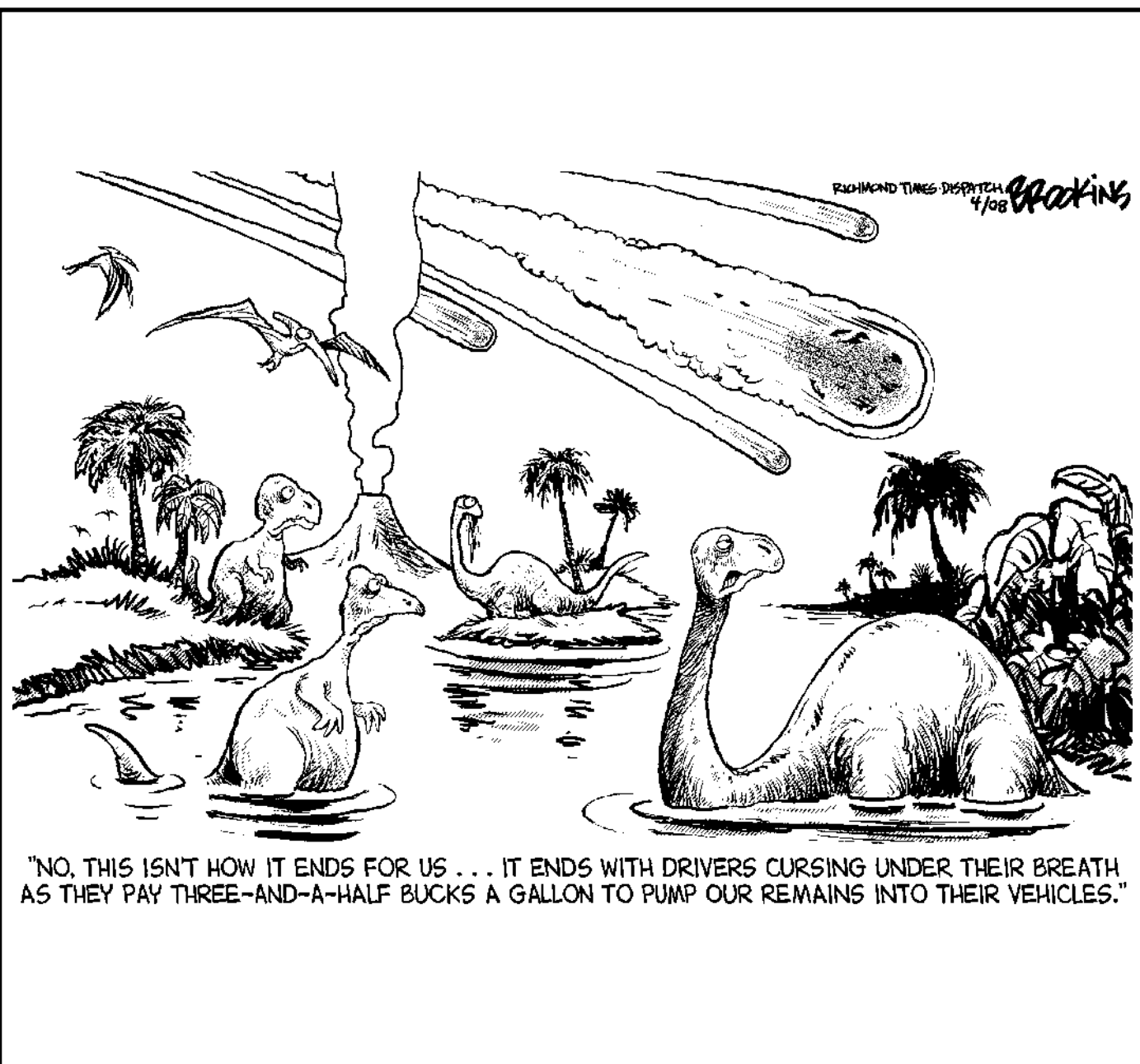
It's a lose-lose proposition for any nation involved in the dispute, and for the millions of Turks and Armenians alive today who will have to continue to live next to each other. It's a winner, however, for Russia, which has been competing with the United States for influence in Armenia and which has leverage over the former Soviet republic's economy.

Given their rock-hard positions, there is little chance that the genocide issue will soon be resolved to the satisfaction of either side, but there is, for the first time, a faint hope for a thaw in relations between modern Turkey and Armenia. In Yerevan, President Serge Sargsyan took office this month after a deeply flawed election in which he promised to improve ties with Ankara. And although the two countries have no diplomatic relations, Turkish President Abdullah Gul was among the first to congratulate him—and to express his desire to normalize relations.

These meager niceties between longtime foes should be extended. Turkey's offer to create a panel of historians to investigate the atrocities of 1915 remains objectionable as long as it continues to deny that the slaughter of Armenians constituted genocide. Still, there are areas for cooperation. Turkey could temporarily reopen its closed frontier with Armenia—with the caveat that it could shut the border again if relations sour.

A friendly, democratic government in Ankara could help Yerevan rebuild its frayed ties with the West, improve its economy and, eventually, negotiate peace with Azerbaijan over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. Demonstrating the political maturity to pursue rapprochement with Armenia could bring Turkey closer to its goal of joining the European Union. History need not be destiny.

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"NO, THIS ISN'T HOW IT ENDS FOR US . . . IT ENDS WITH DRIVERS CURSING UNDER THEIR BREATH AS THEY PAY THREE-AND-A-HALF BUCKS A GALLON TO PUMP OUR REMAINS INTO THEIR VEHICLES."

## Thoughts, and less

**T**he reason I wanted to be a columnist is that you don't need any complex ideas to be one. So you can imagine how jealous I was when along came bloggers, who are even more intellectually lazy than I am.

What I could not imagine—like Aristotle trying to contemplate an atom—was that ideas exist that are too small even for a blog post. Yet Web writers—like Eskimos with a whale carcass—refuse to throw away these micro-thoughts. They're publishing them via tumblr.com, which helps you broadcast your passing observations to the world. These are the kinds of thoughts you are about to share when you open your mouth and make a little noise and then decide not to bother. Concepts so tiny and insignificant that the only person to ever put them into print before was the cartoonist for "Family Circus." If I were tumbling, I would be done by now.

But a tumble isn't even the smallest known unit of thought on the Web. You can Twitter, which are notes of up to 140 characters written from your computer or cellphone and sent to your friends as a feed or posted as the "update status" on your Facebook page. They consist of updates about what you're doing, thinking or feeling at that exact moment, such as "I'm watching 'American Idol'" or "I'm about to go watch 'American Idol'" or "I'm sort of watching 'American Idol,' but I'm really Twittering about watching 'American Idol.'" "

But what if you don't have the energy to type a whole phrase? The quark of self-expression is the "current mood" emoticon on MySpace that says whether you're angry, depressed, bored or embarrassed. It makes no sense to me that this system does not default to "embarrassed."

Singer-songwriter Ryan Adams, who is clearly too busy tumbling to actually learn the word "tumble," posted nearly 100 times this week on his Web site. Haters claimed he was overtumbling, and he responded, "... in the words of Abraham Lincoln, 'step off and read something else [expletive] if you don't like it' ... he said that right? maybe he did not say that." That is, in a way, the perfect tumble.

Paul Scheer, a comedian on the MTV sketch show "Human Giant," also tumbles a lot. "I love Tumblr," Sheer says. "It's like cheating on your blog. Why do I have to write a whole blog post when I can just write down this funny thing?" On Tuesday, Scheer tumbled his list of the three most arrogant cheeses (smoked Gouda, jarlsberg and manchego).

By JOEL STEIN

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times.



Blogging, Scheer thinks, has developed a seriousness because bloggers hope that someone will discover their genius and buy their movie script, cookbook or essay collection. Tumblers simply hope someone will enjoy their cleverness, then look at their blog and then buy their movie script, cookbook or essay collection.

It seems like this onslaught of drivel is crowding bigger ideas out of the intellectual marketplace. But this new structure of thought categorization, I believe, actually is a form of mental rigor. Books can now be left to big thoughts instead of drawn-out ideas that are really just brilliant blog posts. And, yes, I'm talking to you, "Earth After Humans" guy. I get it: Plants will grow and animals will come. Thanks. I figured that out about a week after I bought a house.

We are now forced to determine if our idea is worth a book or an article or a Twitter—just as poets once chose between an epic, a sonnet, a haiku or that crinkled Xeroxed pamphlet that old guy tries to hand you outside the Coffee Bean. If you can't figure it out, the market quickly will let you know if your idea should have been a film, TV show or on YouTube. If Rob Schneider had been born a decade later, he'd be our greatest YouTube star instead of a studio money pit.

Even I am learning to do it. I've had thoughts that weren't complete enough for a column and ended up as my Facebook status. After the Writers Guild strike ended, I posted, "I miss having an excuse for not having a sitcom writing job." Could I have expanded that into a tumble, maybe a blog and, if that went really well, a major motion picture about an untalented writer who organizes an anti-TV movement that cripples the networks so he can keep his excuse for not working? I'm starting to understand why I haven't written a book.



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## Earthlings and the gods

If we were visited by aliens from a distant planet, would we fall on our knees and worship them as gods?

The difficulty of getting here from even our nearest neighbor, the red dwarf star Proxima Centauri, constitutes a filter through which only beings with a technology so advanced as to be godlike (from our point of view) could pass. The capabilities and powers of our interstellar visitors would seem more magical to us than all the miracles of all the gods that have ever been imagined by priests or theologians, mullahs or rabbis, shamans or witch doctors.

Arthur C. Clarke, who died in March, said, "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."

If we could land a jumbo jet beside a medieval village, would we not be worshipped as gods? The technology of interstellar travel, and the scientific knowledge on which it would be based, are as far beyond us as our present-day knowledge surpasses that of Dark Age peasants. Parting the Red Sea -- or splitting the moon in two as Muhammad is alleged to have done -- would be child's play to people who command forces powerful enough to propel them from star to star.

But now the question arises: In what sense would the godlike aliens not be gods? Answer: In a very important sense.

To deserve the name of God, a being would have to have designed more than just a jumbo jet or even a starship. He would have to have designed the universe. And therein lies a fundamental contradiction. Entities capable of designing anything, whether they be human engineers or interstellar aliens, must be complex and, therefore, statistically improbable. And statistically improbable things don't just happen spontaneously by chance without an explanation trail. That is what "improbable" means, as creationists never tire of assuring us (they wrongly think Darwinian natural selection is a matter of chance).

In fact, natural selection is the very opposite of a chance process, and it is the only ultimate explanation we know for complex, improbable things. Even if our species was created by space alien designers, those designers themselves would have to have arisen from simpler antecedents -- so they can't be an ultimate explanation for anything. No matter how godlike our interstellar aliens may be, and

no matter how vast and wonderful their starships, they cannot have designed the universe because, like human engineers and all complex things, they are late arrivals in it.

Intelligent design "theorists" (a misnomer, for they have no theory) often use the alien scenario to distance themselves from old-style creationists: "For all we know, the designer might be an alien from outer space."

This attempt to fend off accusations of unconstitutionally importing religion into science classes is lame and disingenuous. All the leading intelligent design spokesmen are devout, and, when talking to the faithful, they drop the science-fiction fig leaf and expose themselves as the fundamentalist creationists they truly are.

Nevertheless, despite their notorious dishonesty, I sometimes hand an olive branch to these people by pretending to take their "space aliens" political ploy seriously. Unrealistic as the space alien theory is, it constitutes intelligent design's best shot.

The distinguished molecular biologists Francis Crick and Leslie Orgel advanced a version of the notion, probably tongue in cheek, called "Directed Panspermia." Life, they argued, could have been "seeded" on the early Earth by a spacecraft packed with bacteria. Maybe little cellular machines like the bacterial flagellar motor were designed by ingenious nano-technologists from Betelgeuse. But you still have to explain the prior existence of the Betelgeusians and how they became so advanced and godlike. Even if Betelgeusian life was, in turn, seeded by another rocket from Aldebaran 4 billion years earlier, eventually we have to terminate the regress.

We need a better explanation, such as evolution by natural selection or an equally workable account of the painstaking R&D that must underlie complex, statistically improbable things. Gods, if they are complex enough to be capable of designing anything, are, by virtue of their very complexity, not in a position to design themselves.

Theologians attempt two (mutually incompatible and pathetically inadequate) answers to this unanswerable point. Some say their God is not complex but simple. This obviously won't wash. No simple god could design bacterial flagellar motors or universes, let alone forgive sins or impregnate virgins.

By **RICHARD DAWKINS**

*Special to the Los Angeles Times*

*Dawkins, an evolutionary biologist, is a professor at Oxford University. His most recent book is The God Delusion.*



Presumably recognizing the justice of that, other theologians go to the opposite extreme. They admit that their god is complex, but assert that he had no beginning: He was always there and always complex. But if you are going to resort to that facile cop-out, you might as well say flagellar motors were always there. You cannot have it both ways. Visitations from distant star systems are improbable enough to attract ridicule, not least from the advocates of intelligent design themselves. A creator god who had always existed would be far more improbable still.

This technique of arguing against a theory by setting up its most plausible version and dismissing it is commonly used in science and philosophy. The late, great evolutionist John Maynard Smith used it in his 1964 attack on the then-popular theory of "group selection." He set himself the task of devising the best possible argument for group selection. The details don't matter; he called it the Haystack Model. He then proceeded to show that the assumptions that the Haystack Model needed to make were highly unrealistic.

Everybody understood that this was an argument against group selection. Nobody twisted it to trumpet to the world, "See? Maynard Smith believes in Group Selection after all, and he thinks it happens in Haystacks, ho ho ho!"

Creationists, by contrast, never miss a trick. When I have raised the science-fiction olive branch to try to argue against them, they have twisted it in order to proclaim loudly, "Dawkins believes in intelligent design after all." Or "Dawkins believes in little green men in flying saucers." Or "Dawkins is a Raelian."

It's called "lying for Jesus," and they are completely shameless.

## Watching the popes drive by

By **PETER MANSEAU**

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

During the previous pope's first U.S. tour, when I was 5 years old, my mother wrapped my brother, sister and me in rain gear and took us to watch the papal entourage drive by in Boston. That was 1979, two years before an attempt on his life, so when John Paul II went by, it was not in the bulletproof Popemobile but in a black limousine with a sunroof, through which he stood for much of his tour of the city.

Because of the spitting drizzle that day (my mother warned us to keep our hoods on or we'd catch "pope colds"), the man called "God's athlete" for his punishing travel schedule rode hidden through some of Boston's streets, where crowds five deep filled the sidewalks.

I remember being disappointed to realize that the car was all I would see of him. I knew that my devout parents were children of the church, and I knew the man we were waiting to see was the father of it, so in the pope I had imagined finding some kind of surrogate grandfather. And then a car like a hearse rolled by.

No one else seemed to mind. The roar of the crowd was joy on the verge of madness, echoing in the valley of shingled triple-deckers that had been Boston's Irish Catholic ghetto when my mother was young.

The current pope likewise crowded streets and snarled traffic in Washington last week, but it was obvious that things have changed. Yes, Benedict XVI's public Mass filled the new baseball stadium to its 41,888-seat capacity. But, in 1979, John Paul II said Mass for 400,000 on the rain-soaked Boston Common. When he came to Washington a few days later, pilgrims camped out for two nights on the Mall to see him. For the current visit, "Welcome Pope Benedict" signs planned for some area buses were removed because commuters objected to religious messages appearing in a public space.

It would be easy to explain these somewhat different reactions to two very different popes as merely a matter of charisma. The former actor and poet John Paul II was adored the instant he became the leader of the Roman Catholic Church. Benedict XVI—the church's prickly inquisitor before his ascension to the throne of St. Peter—has proved a harder man to love.

It's also tempting to blame the clergy sexual abuse crisis for Benedict's relatively cool reception. The past decade has brought unprecedented questioning of the church's moral authority. Posters I saw pasted around Washington this week—"Pope go home"—would have been unimaginable in Boston 30 years ago.



Pope John Paul II at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington in 1979.  
THE WASHINGTON POST

Yet the changing relationship between Americans and the pope has a longer and deeper history.

For my parents' generation—all those mothers bundling up their little ones to protect them from pope colds in 1979—the pope was indeed a bridge, as the title pontiff implies, but not just between humanity and God. For those children of immigrants who built the great urban enclaves that once defined American Catholicism, the pope was also a bridge between the old world and the new.

A generation ago, to be Irish or Italian or Polish or any other kind of "ethnic" Catholic in the United States was to grow up with pictures of the pope in your living room. To see the pope on American soil was to believe that it was possible to embrace the Catholic past, the Catholic present and maybe the Catholic future as well.

Today, this sense of the pope's meaning for Americans has faded. For a lapsed Catholic and a grandson of immigrants such as I

am, interest in the pope endures, but it rests, in a sense, on a family connection rather than a personal link. No longer a spiritual father figure, the pope is for many more like a distant relation, one who grows ever more distant with each passing year.

And yet the fascination remains. This week, when I spotted a motorcade that was long even by Washington standards, I said to my young daughter, with excitement that surprised me, "Look! The pope!"

"What's the pope?" she asked.

Which made me wonder: Twenty or 30 years from now, when another pope visits for the first time, will my daughter notice? Will she care?






*Peter Manseau is the author of Vows: The Story of a Priest, a Nun, and Their Son.*



Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	T'Storms	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	T'Storms	▲83 ▼72
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89 ▼76
Majuro	T'Storms	▲84 ▼75

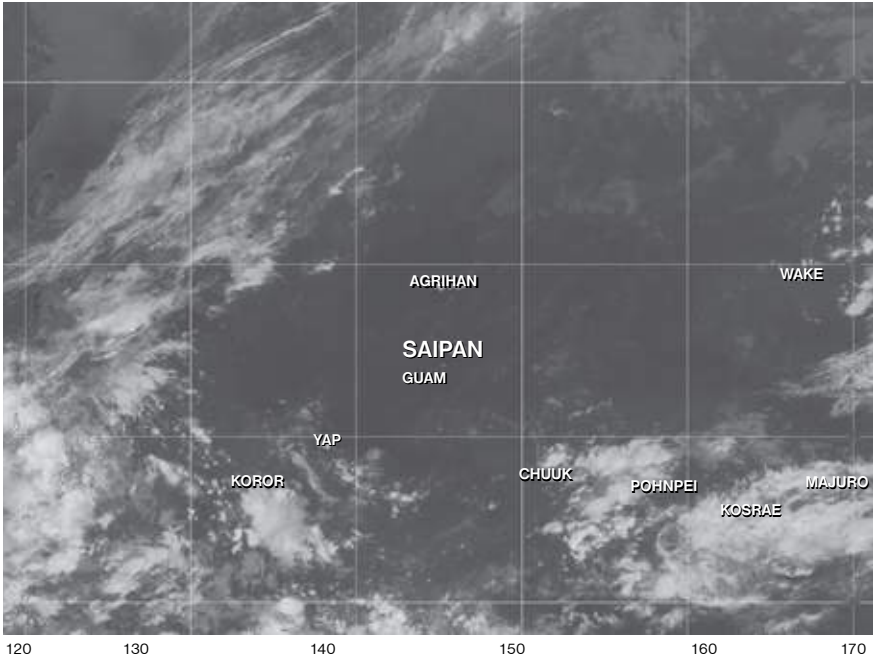
### Around The Globe

Auckland	T'Storms	▲73 ▼63
Beijing	Cloudy	▲74 ▼60
Hong Kong	Showers	▲79 ▼74
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼73
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲63 ▼46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88 ▼58
Manila	Cloudy	▲90 ▼77
Melbourne	T'Storms	▲54 ▼38
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲83 ▼71
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲60 ▼51
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼50
Paris	Cloudy	▲65 ▼45
Pusan	Sunny	▲67 ▼53
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲69 ▼50
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲65 ▼46
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲67 ▼51
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲64 ▼45
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲70 ▼52
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲69 ▼55

### Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:17AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
6:24AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
10:32AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:30PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2008  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak cold front extends southwestward from 25N140E to 18N130E. Scattered light showers are found along and up to 100 miles northwest of the front. A cold front east of wake island extends from 25N180 to 17N170E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within 100 miles of the front. A near-equatorial trough south of Koror runs from 4N131E to EQ140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between the equator and 7N from 130E to 139E. Upper-level divergence is combining with convergent low-level winds to produce scattered showers near Yap, within 100 miles of a line from 10N135E to 6N143E. Trade wind convergence and upper level divergence located south of Chuuk and Pohnpei is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 10N from 151E to 173E. Kosrae Kwajelein and Majuro are also located in or around this area.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:56AM	6:34PM
Monday	5:55AM	6:34PM
Tuesday	5:55AM	6:34PM
Wednesday	5:54AM	6:34PM
Thursday	5:54AM	6:35PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:30PM**	10:52AM*
Monday	12:16AM	11:46AM
Tuesday	12:59AM	12:39PM
Wednesday	1:40AM	1:32PM
Thursday	2:19AM	2:25PM

\*Following Day \*\*Preceding Day

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
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- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
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Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Manila</b> CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	<b>Manila-Saipan</b> CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
<b>Saipan-Seoul</b> OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	<b>Seoul-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Saipan-Guanzhou</b> CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	<b>Guanzhou-Saipan</b> CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Hongkong</b> CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	<b>Hongkong-Guam</b> CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
<b>Airline</b>	<b>ETD</b>	<b>ETA</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

- Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
  - \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
  - Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

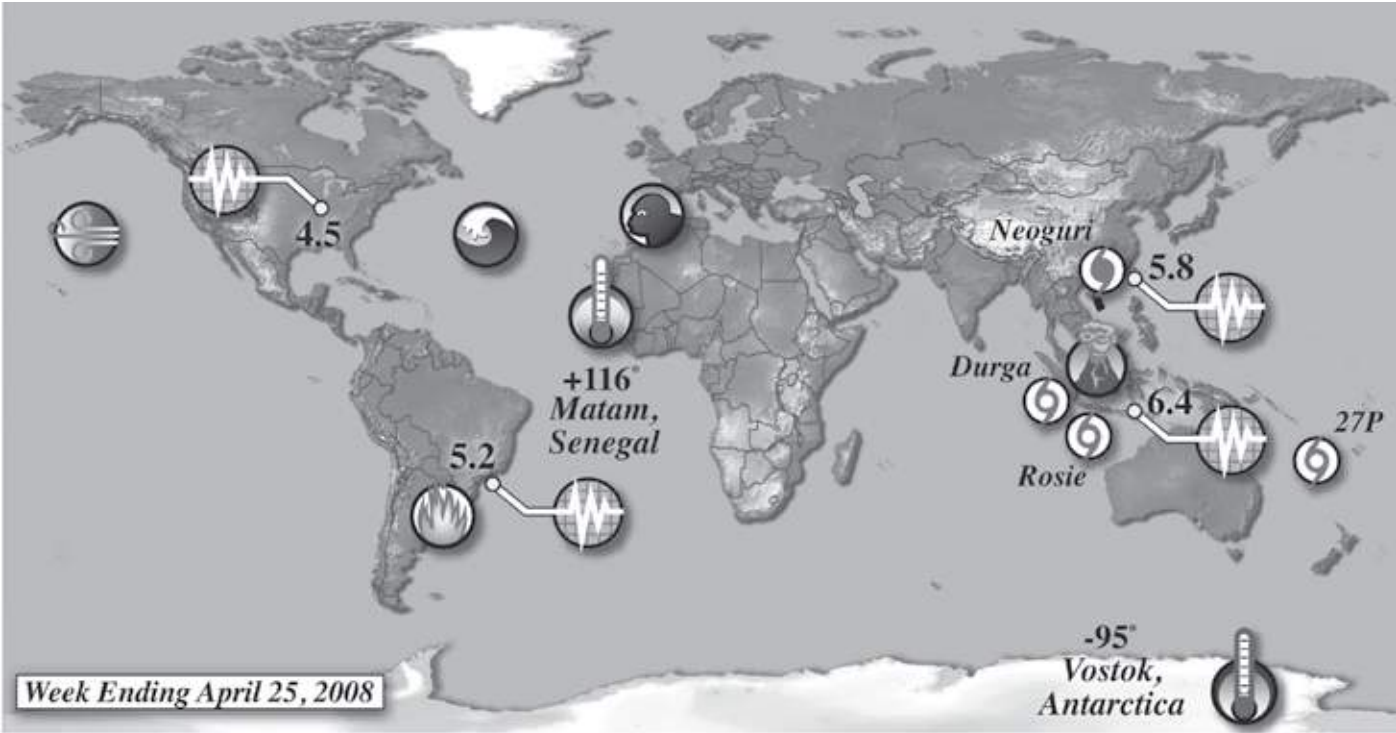


Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC																										
<b>Mt. Carmel Cathedral</b> Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm																										
<b>Korean Center</b> Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm																										
<b>Kristo Rai Parish</b> Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm																										
<b>Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish</b> Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am																										
<b>Saint Jude Parish</b> Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm																										
<b>San Antonio Parish</b> Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm																										
<b>San Francisco de Borja-Rota</b> Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm																										
<b>San Isidro-Rota</b> Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm																										
<b>San Jose (Oleai) Parish</b> Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm																										
<b>San Roque Parish</b> Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am																										
<b>San Vicente Parish</b> Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm																										
<b>Santa Remedios</b> Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism																										
<b>Santa Soledad</b> Sunday: 7:30am																										
PROTESTANT																										
<b>Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan</b> Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm																										
<b>Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm																										
<b>Chinese Christian Church of Saipan</b> Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm																										
<b>Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan</b> Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm																										
<b>Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan</b> St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions																										
<b>Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan</b> Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm																										
<b>Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan</b> Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)																										
<b>Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville</b> Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto																										
<b>Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)</b> Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)																										
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)																										
<b>Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan</b> English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday																										
<b>Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm																										
<b>Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan</b> Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (54333)																										
<b>Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan</b> English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm																										
<b>Missions Connection Ministry</b> Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm																										
<b>Northern Marianas Christian Church</b> Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620																										
<b>Saipan Bible Fellowship Church</b> Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm																										
<b>Saipan Christian Church</b> Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)																										
<b>Saipan Church of Christ</b> Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm																										
<b>Saipan Community Church</b> (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm																										
<b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan</b> (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm																										
<b>First Baptist Church</b> (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Aletna St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td></td><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>7pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. McLure at 234-1939/235-7779.				9am	Sunday school		10am	Regular worship		6pm	worship	Wednesday	7pm	worship												
	9am	Sunday school																								
	10am	Regular worship																								
	6pm	worship																								
Wednesday	7pm	worship																								
<b>Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center</b> Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism																										
<b>Upper Room International Ministries</b> Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer <table><tr><td></td><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr><tr><td>Koblerville</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>7pm-9pm</td><td>Prayer meeting</td></tr><tr><td>Saturday</td><td>7pm-9pm</td><td>Tagalog service</td></tr><tr><td>Venue:</td><td>Jason Presbyterian Church</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Gualo Rai, Saipan</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <b>Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church</b> Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S				7am-9am	English service		7am-9am	Sunday school		10am-12noon	English service,	Koblerville			Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting	Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service	Venue:	Jason Presbyterian Church		Gualo Rai, Saipan		
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Venue:	Jason Presbyterian Church																									
Gualo Rai, Saipan																										

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Jet Stream Shift

Rivers of air that are the guiding force for weather in half of the planet have shifted toward the poles during the past few decades—possibly in response to global warming, scientists say. Researchers from the Carnegie Institution examined atmospheric records from 1979 to 2001 and found that the polar jet stream in the northern hemisphere shifted about 12 miles northward per decade and weakened during the period. These changes match the predictions of global warming models and have implications for the frequency and intensity of future storms, including hurricanes, researchers from the institution’s Department of Global Ecology said. Rain-bearing storms are also likely to shift northward with the jet. And hurricanes, whose development and paths are affected by the jet, may travel farther north and become more powerful as a result of the more northerly jet.

Wave Tremors

Tiny squiggles on seismographs once thought to be only background noise in the data have been discovered to actually be the seismic records of large ocean waves crashing onto shorelines worldwide. Scientists in New Mexico have recently discovered that these “microseisms” have increased over the past three decades, indicating that powerful ocean storms that generate the waves are becoming more frequent due to climate change. Richard Aster of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro, and his colleagues, made the discovery by analyzing data from 22 seismometers worldwide since 1972. Aster says that all 22 stations showed a “systematic increase” in the number of microseisms related to ocean storms.

Indonesian Alerts

Indonesia raised the alert level for two of its volcanoes after both showed signs of increased activity. Fishermen and tourist boats have been advised to remain more than a mile off the island created by Anak Krakatau (Child of Krakatoa) in the Sunda Strait. “Anak Krakatau’s explosions are strong, so we urge people not to get close to it as it is throwing out flaming rocks,” Surono, head of the volcanology center in Bandung city, told Reuters. Mount Ibu, in North Maluku province, began spewing ash and rattling the region with volcanic tremors. Villagers living near Ibu were advised to wear face masks to protect against falling ash.

Argentine Pall

Huge brush fires ignited by Argentine cattle ranchers and farmers created a vast pall of smoke that choked residents downwind in Buenos Aires and the Uruguayan capital of Montevideo. Hospital officials said their emergency rooms were being overrun with patients suffering from respiratory problems caused by the smoke. Three main roads in northern Buenos Aires province were shut down when low visibility due to the smoke caused several deadly multi-vehicle crashes.

Earthquakes

A moderate earthquake centered off Brazil’s southeastern coast caused high-rise buildings in Sao Paulo to rock, sending frightened residents fleeing into the streets. ■ Aftershocks jolted southeastern Illinois, where a 5.2 magnitude quake caused light damage on April 18. ■ Earth movements were also felt in eastern parts of Taiwan and East Timor.

Tropical Cyclones

Three people were confirmed dead in south China’s Guangdong Province from mud flows and strong winds brought by Typhoon Neoguri. The storm skirted the island province of Hainan as a Category-2 storm, then weakened to below hurricane force before making landfall about 150 miles southwest of Hong Kong. ■ Tropical Storm 27P formed just south of the Solomon Islands, then brought beneficial rainfall to Vanuatu as it weakened between that South Pacific nation and New Caledonia. ■ Tropical storms Rosie and Durga formed briefly between northwest Australia and Indonesia’s Java and Sumatra islands.

Troublesome Tribe

A troop of about 25 of Gibraltar’s famed wild monkeys will be culled because the government there says they threaten human health in one of the British territory’s most popular tourist areas. “The decision was not taken lightly,” said Gibraltar’s tourist minister Ernest Britto, who issued the license for the culling. “Children are frightened, people cannot leave their windows open for fear of the monkeys stealing; apes can bite, and contact with them runs the risk of salmonella or hepatitis,” said Britto. He added that once the population of the macaques is reduced to about 200, birth control and other measures will be used to keep their numbers stable. The International Primate Protection League said it was outraged by the cull and is considering calling on tourists to boycott Gibraltar if the killing is not halted.

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www.earthweek.com  
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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

**Philly gas station sells 76-cent fuel in honor of 76ers**  
PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia 76ers are in the playoffs for the first time in three years, but motorists were the ones celebrating on Friday. For 76 minutes starting at noon, a gas station offered fuel for 76 cents a gallon in a promotion tied to the playoff series with the Detroit Pistons. Hundreds of drivers began lining up around 6:30 a.m., some sleeping in their cars. About 100 cars made it through before the line was cut off. “If gas keeps going up, I’m going to have to get used to walking,” said JoAnne Baker, who was seventh in line. She drove from another part of the city—and bought \$2 in gas just to make the drive—so she could wait in

line for the cheap fuel. Before the price drop, regular unleaded at the station was a fraction under \$3.69.

**Legally blind man teaches alleged intruder a lesson**  
INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A legally blind man beat up an intruder and held him at knifepoint until police arrived at the man’s eastside home, authorities said. Allan Kieta, 49, told police he was at home Monday morning when his small dog began barking and he encountered the man. “I opened the door and just ran into him. I had him pinned in the laundry room and just kept pummeling,” said Kieta, a former wrestler in high school. He said he grabbed the intruder by the belt and dragged him into the kitchen,

where he put a knife at the man’s throat and tried to dial 911. “Being visually impaired, I couldn’t get the buttons because I was using my left hand,” he said. “It took me about 20 tries.” Police arrived within minutes and arrested Alvaro Castro, 25, on an initial charge of residential entry, Sgt. Matthew Mount said. Lt. Jeff Duhamell was impressed with Kieta’s feat. Castro, who was initially taken to the Wishard Memorial Hospital detention facility, denied trying to burglarize the home and said he was a former boyfriend of Kieta’s daughter and was trying to visit her, said Mount. Kieta said Castro told him he was looking for his cat. “I go, ‘Your cat? You’re in my house!’” Kieta recalled. Castro was transferred to the Marion County Jail on Monday night.



# Good Housekeeping

## Seeds in the city

By DAN ZAK

(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

If you live in the city, you might have a fire escape, balcony or back patio abutting an alley instead of a yard. Your landscape is iron, wood, brick, concrete. It's an unlikely place for nature, which makes it an ideal place for an urban garden. An urban container garden, that is.

Anything grown or planted in the ground can be grown or planted in a container, and generally with more ease. In containers, you control the quality of the soil. You minimize the chances of wrangling with weeds. You can relocate pots for aesthetic or growing purposes (such as moving inside during winter). And most important for the amateur urban gardener, you can start small and work your way up.

Now is the time to start planning. Some say Mother's Day is the safest point to start growing outdoors, but don't wait till July, when the heat will be too much for plants to establish themselves. Take a look around your living space, inside and outside. Find that spot of utter urban banality and get ready to conjure some horticultural beauty on it. Then ask yourself five basic questions and get going.



If you live in the city, you might have a fire escape, instead of a yard. It's an unlikely place for nature, which makes it an ideal place for an urban garden.

### Where Do I Start?

Proper gardening involves time and money, so suss out your motives. Do you want to grow for show, or to feed yourself, or to attract certain birds and insects? Do you want to grow from seed

(more work-intensive but cheaper) or buy ready-made plants and flowers (easier but costly)?

Ambition is one thing, and space is another. You can vow to re-create the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, but that doesn't mean you should try it on your

six-square-foot back patio that gets zero direct sunlight. Observe how much sun your potential garden space gets, and plant accordingly.

Also, don't try to mix full-sun and shade plants in the same garden; that kind of high-wire

## How does your urban garden grow? In pots.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

We asked four local experts to tailor 20- to 24-inch containers for specific needs. If you have no idea how to arrange a container garden, follow these recommendations to get started.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Here, the evening pot, which includes flowers of various shades of white, cream and pale to show up at night.

## EVENING

For those who enjoy their gardens in the twilight hours

Designed by Matthew Roberts, manager of Ginkgo Gardens in Washington: "Flowers in this pot are various shades of white, cream and pale to show up at night. The perennials bloom at different times of the season; the annuals will cover the bare spots and off times. The purple setcreasea (Purple Heart) and the shocking green lysimachia (Creeping Jenny) keep the garden from becoming monotonous."

See **HOW** on next page

**24/7 POWER AVAILABLE**



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chlorophyll juggling is best left to the experts.

Start with containers that are at least 10 to 12 inches in diameter. If you're putting containers on a wooden deck or balcony, make sure the structure can hold the weight. (Big pots, filled with soil and watered regularly, can be very heavy.) And think vertically: With limited space, the solution to gardening grandly is to invest in climbers.

"Pole beans grow vertically. Do them on a chain-link fence or up the fire escape, and keep plucking them and eating them the whole summer," says Matthew Roberts, manager of Ginkgo Gardens in Washington. "Sunflowers are surprisingly easy. You're going to want to get the dwarf kind. They grow up four to five feet. A row of five of those only takes up about three feet in length and a foot and a half deep, and they just rock."

### How Do I Make It Pop?

An amateur container gardener must consider three things before planting: form, texture and color. A good container gar-

See **SEEDS** on next page



## KITCHEN MAGIC

## Corkscrews with Spring Veggies

Toss sautéed asparagus and leeks with pasta and creamy goat cheese. Yum!

- 1 bunch (about 1 pound) leeks
- 1 package (16 ounce) corkscrew or bow-tie pasta
- 1 tablespoon margarine or butter
- 1 pound asparagus, trimmed and cut diagonally into 2-inch pieces
- 1 package (4 ounces) soft goat cheese, cut into small pieces

1. Cut off roots and leaf ends from leeks. Discard any tough outer leaves. Cut each leek lengthwise in half, then crosswise into 1/4-inch-wide slices. Place leeks in large bowl of cold water; with hand, swish leeks around to remove any sand. Transfer leeks to colander. Repeat process, changing water several times, until all sand is removed. Drain well.

2. In large saucepot, prepare pasta in boiling salted water as label directs.

3. Meanwhile, in nonstick 12-inch skillet, melt margarine or butter over medium heat. Add leeks and cook until almost tender, about 5 minutes, stirring often. Stir in asparagus, 3/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper; cook 5 minutes longer, stirring often. Add 1/3 cup water; cover and cook 3 to 5 minutes, until asparagus is tender-crisp.

4. Drain pasta, reserving 3/4 cup pasta cooking water. Return pasta to saucepot. Add asparagus mixture and pasta cooking water; toss well. Spoon into large serving bowl; sprinkle with goat cheese and coarsely ground black pepper. Serves 4.

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## EDIBLE

For those who want to snack on their garden

Designed by Ed Bruske, president of DC Urban Gardeners: "This is a 'cool weather' salad container, meaning most of the plants thrive in spring and fall and tend to not like hot weather very much. I like the sharper, peppery flavors of arugula and mizuna in my salads. Also there is a variety of textures: The foliage has all different shapes and leaf structures."

Here, the edible pot, a cool weather salad container, meaning most of the plants thrive in spring and fall and tend to not like hot weather very much.

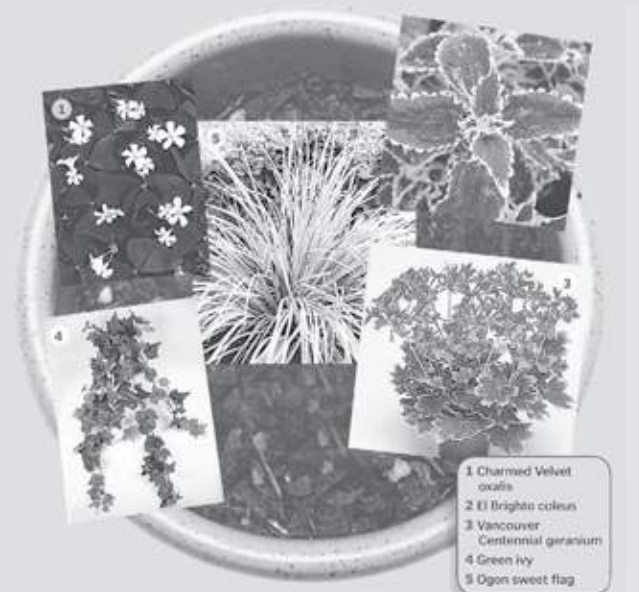


THE WASHINGTON POST

## SHOWY IN THE SHADE

For those who want to impress without full sun

Designed by Jill Gonzalez, manager of seasonal plants and perennials at Behnke Nurseries in Maryland: "Usually with part-sun you're a little more limited with selection. I chose this mix because it has some leaf texture and leaf color: coleus with its yellow and orange, and oxalis has a dark leaf with pink-white flowers. For the most part, this one is a pretty low-maintenance container. It likes morning sun and afternoon shade."



THE WASHINGTON POST

Here, a pot made for shade. This mix was chosen because it has some leaf texture and leaf color, including the yellow and orange of coleus and the dark leaves with pink-white flowers of oxalis.

## TOUGH TO KILL

For those who don't have time to pamper

Designed by Kathy Jentz, editor and publisher of Washington Gardener: "These thrive on neglect. Select a well-draining soil mixed with coarse playground sand. Top-dress with pea gravel or decorative rocks. Check on watering needs every two to three days until it is settled in. After that, you only need to water during serious drought; overwatering is the biggest downfall for these."

Here, plants that thrive on neglect, from geraniums to lamb's ear to hens and chicks.



THE WASHINGTON POST

## A fresh coat for spring

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA  
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**Q: In midwinter I moved into an apartment that had been occupied by a smoker. Cleaning up wasn't too bad—there was no carpet to worry about, and the drapes had been removed. However, the walls are all dingy and I'd like to freshen up the place. Will my landlord allow me to paint the apartment? Do you have any tips on making the apartment look bigger and airier?**—Jeri K., via e-mail

**A:** Painting your apartment shouldn't be a problem. Most apartment leases include sections on redecorating—specifically painting, wallpapering and carpeting. Check your lease to see if there are any limits on the types of colors one can use or even if the apartment management or landlord offers any rebates for doing improvements yourself.

Most landlords want to be informed of any painting or related work in an apartment. A

heads-up is not only polite, but can also be helpful if there are areas that the landlord needs you to avoid or to be careful around, or if he or she would prefer that you use latex or oil-based paints.

#### Here are a few tips:

■ Wash the walls a couple of days before painting by dipping a sponge in warm, soapy water and wringing it out well. This will remove grimy residue and help the new coat of paint better adhere to the old surface.

■ Apply spackling paste over unused nail holes and smooth using a putty knife.

■ Try to use the same type of paint—latex or oil-based—as the old coat. If this is not possible or you don't know for sure, apply a coat of primer paint the day before painting.

■ The same goes for significant color changes, especially if you're painting a light color over a darker one—apply primer beforehand.



**HOME TIP:** Painting the walls and ceiling with lighter colors can make a room seem bigger, brighter and cooler, while darker colors give a room a warmer, cozier feel.

## SEEDS

From Page 10

den has vegetation of varying heights (taller plants in the middle or in back, surrounded by shorter plants and bordered by drooping, viny plants) as well as flowers that provide a constant or staggered show of blooming. Apart from height, make sure you have a variety of shapes and textures.

"Look to use different leaves," says John Peter Thompson, chairman of Maryland's Behnke Nurseries. "Pointy sword-type leaves that grass or gladiolas would give you, fuzzy and round leaves and leaves that are indented or serrated. Looking at texture, some leaves are hard and shiny, some soft and fuzzy. Planting a perennial like lamb's ear gives you something to touch."

The most important and striking variable, though, is color. Hot colors such as red, yellow and orange seem closer to the eye than cool shades. So if you want to make a small urban space seem bigger, plant blue or purple flowers, whose colors make them appear to recede.

Also give equal consideration to the hue of the leaves. "Remember: Your colors include green," Thompson says. "There are green-blues, green-yellows and green-reds, and thinking in terms of sticking to all one kind or contrasting different greens" is as important to the garden's color palette as the other parts of the rainbow.

#### How Much Time Will It Take?

Container gardens require monitoring, but not too much monitoring.

Check on the garden daily. Walk around it with your morning coffee, looking for disease, infestation or yellowing leaves (a sign of overwatering). If you check on your containers regularly, you'll be familiar enough

with their general appearance to notice any changes.

"There are always people who do everything on Saturday morning: the weekend-only gardeners," says Kathy Jentz, editor and publisher of Washington Gardener magazine. "If you can devote a couple hours every week, that'll probably take care of it."

Containers dry out quickly, but that doesn't mean you should stick to a strict watering schedule. Merely feeling the topsoil isn't enough to tell whether the whole container garden is getting what it needs. The top may be dry while the roots are soaked. Thompson recommends thoroughly soaking a pot and then lifting it to get a feel for its weight. When it becomes significantly lighter, that's when you water it again.

If you'll be away for a while, get a neighbor or friend to water your garden, or put water-storing granules (such as Soil Moist) in the dirt to buy yourself some time.

#### What Should I Buy?

1. A good pair of gloves. "You'll thank me in the end," Jentz says.

2. The best potting soil you can afford. "It's very hard to think, 'OK, I have a \$100 budget and need to spend \$95 on dirt and \$5 on the plant.' It's counterintuitive," Thompson says. "But the key to success is living, viable soil with all the beneficial microbes you can get."

3. A seed starter kit, or egg cartons, if you're growing from seeds. Put them on top of the refrigerator after you plant them; the heat from the fridge will encourage germination.

4. Plastic containers. Terra cotta or clay pots are heavier, don't retain water as easily and can crack. Try a couple of Rubbermaid crates, with drainage holes drilled in the bottoms; line them up to create a de facto garden bed. Or, if you want to try a more methodical, ready-

made route, consider buying an EarthBox, a self-contained gardening system ([www.earthbox.com](http://www.earthbox.com)). "The water resides down in this reservoir in the bottom, so instead of watering the top, you pour down a side chute and the roots reach down, which prevents overwatering and dehydration," Roberts says.

#### How Do I Not Screw Up?

All first-time gardeners make mistakes. If you know what to avoid from the outset, you'll have a head start on gardening successfully.

First, don't seed or plant too far apart. "People put either too few plants in or put them too far apart and wait all season for them to grow together in a container," Roberts says. "You can put plants closer together than you might think."

Don't try to grow plants that aren't appropriate for your area. Do research about a plant's sun and soil requirements, and don't buy it only because you like it or because it reminds you of home. What your mother grew when you were young won't necessarily thrive here. "A lot of English gardeners forget about our heat and humidity, which makes their delphiniums melt in the summertime," Jentz says.

Make sure your pots have adequate but not too much drainage. All plants need sunlight and water, but they also need plant food. Basic Miracle-Gro or a comparable product will do the trick.

There are a wealth of resources available to keep your mistakes to a minimum. Don't be afraid to visit your local nursery and ask experts. Sign up with Internet discussion groups, read magazines, peruse Web sites (GardenWeb at [www.gardenweb.com](http://www.gardenweb.com) is often cited as a trusted source) or hook up with your local master gardeners (check your county's official Web site or Google your way to them).



# The Good Life

## Civil obedience: Book inspires schools, counties

By MARY OTTO

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WASHINGTON—There are 40,000 “Choose Civility” magnets around suburban Howard County, Md., and more on the way. Some adorn cars; others sit on office desks as reminders.

“Please Drive Gently” bumper stickers have started to appear on the vehicles of some drivers in suburban Montgomery County.

Believe it or not, some people are trying to make the world a little nicer.

“People are longing for civility,” said Valerie Gross, executive director of the Howard County Library.

That is the longing that overwhelmed Johns Hopkins University professor Pier Massimo Forni, who got this quiet civility movement started.

He remembers the moment clearly, although it was more than a decade ago. He was giving a lecture on “The Divine Comedy” at the Baltimore campus, and looked out over the earnest young faces.

“I would like very much that they know everything about Dante,” he thought. But more urgently, “I wanted them to be kind human beings.

“At the time I did not know it would change my life,” Forni said, “but it did.”

And, although such things are hard to quantify,

cludes talks, the latest dealing with civility in the political arena. Efforts are underway to get civility lessons into county classrooms.

“We knew that Howard County had a program, and it sounded like such a good idea,” said Esther Newman, founder and executive director of Leadership Montgomery, a nonprofit civic organization spearheading the effort.

Forni’s message has been honed by research into ethics and manners through the ages and experiences gained with colleagues who helped him found the Johns Hopkins Civility Project, a forum for academic discussions and outreach projects to inner-city school students and prisoners.

His rules, which fit on a bookmark, make civility seem attainable. They are short: “Pay attention. “Speak kindly.” “Respect others’ opinions.” Yet in a world rife with traffic jams and jangling ring tones that easily irritate, they require heightened awareness and cultivated discipline to achieve.

Even so, Gross believes they respond to an intense need, a craving for gentleness and kindness in a harsh world.

“I keep the magnet on my desk,” said Clarky Davis, a spokeswoman for Ascend One, a holding company that provides financial services to consumers in debt. “If you are dealing with a challenging customer, it’s good to have it there. It helps you refocus.”



THE WASHINGTON POST

Johns Hopkins University professor Pier Massimo Forni has published “Choosing Civility: The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct,” which has sold 100,000 copies and become the focus of seminars and reading groups in some suburban Washington counties. Forni is photographed in Baltimore.

his epiphany appears to be changing other lives as well.

Six years ago, Forni published “Choosing Civility: The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct.” The book has sold 100,000 copies and has become the focus of seminars and reading groups in Howard and Montgomery counties, as well as communities nationwide.

Dozens of Howard County’s civic, business and philanthropic partners have joined its library in supporting an ongoing schedule of related events. On May 14, a “Choose Civility Symposium” will feature former Baltimore Colts defensive lineman and author Joe Ehrmann discussing the importance of empathy.

Some Howard schools have made civility part of their curriculum. At Hammond High School in Columbia, teachers met over the summer to read and discuss “Choosing Civility” and are using some of the 25 rules as topics for classroom discussions. The book seemed like a good way to follow up a year-long series of talks aimed at understanding and preventing bullying, guidance counselor Jane Mooney said.

“It’s a natural progression,” she said. “Our goal here is to set a civil climate in the schools.”

Montgomery’s nascent civility movement in-

After a Baltimore student assaulted her art teacher this month, some Hammond students focused on the dynamics of the incident as part of their most recent civility discussion. “Acts of violence are often the result of an exchange of acts of rudeness that spiral out of control,” Forni has said.

Although people are born with an inclination toward civility, Forni believes, they need teachers. His teacher was his mother, Sheba Lolly. “My mother was a loving and somewhat serious educator who had only one child and wanted to make sure that he would have plenty of love, short of spoiling,” he said.

He said he never dreamed his musings on civility would gain such a following. These days, he sits at his cluttered university desk, answering e-mail from all over the world, from people pondering the timeless quandaries of civil behavior.

“I try to answer everybody,” he said. “I try to give them a little of what they are looking for.”

He sometimes fails to be civil, he graciously admits. “I remain a flawed messenger bearing a good message.”

But since that moment more than a decade ago, his life has never been the same, he said. “I think of myself as someone who gradually stumbled upon a truth greater than the truth he had believed before.”

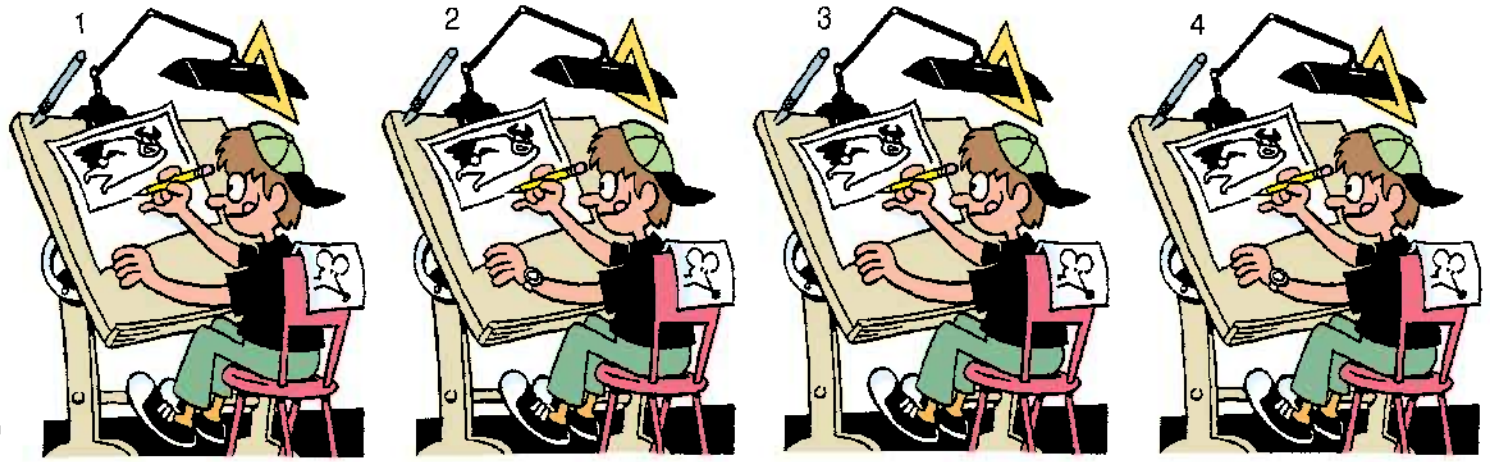
## THE 25 RULES

1. Pay attention.
2. Acknowledge others.
3. Think the best.
4. Listen.
5. Be inclusive.
6. Speak kindly.
7. Don’t speak ill.
8. Accept and give praise.
9. Respect even a subtle “no.”
10. Respect others’ opinions.
11. Mind your body.
12. Be agreeable.
13. Keep it down (and rediscover silence).
14. Respect other people’s time.
15. Respect other people’s space.
16. Apologize earnestly.
17. Assert yourself.
18. Avoid personal questions.
19. Care for your guests.
20. Be a considerate guest.
21. Think twice before asking for favors.
22. Refrain from idle complaints.
23. Accept and give constructive criticism.
24. Respect the environment and be gentle to animals.
25. Don’t shift responsibility and blame.



# Bob Weber Jr.'s SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS for KIDS

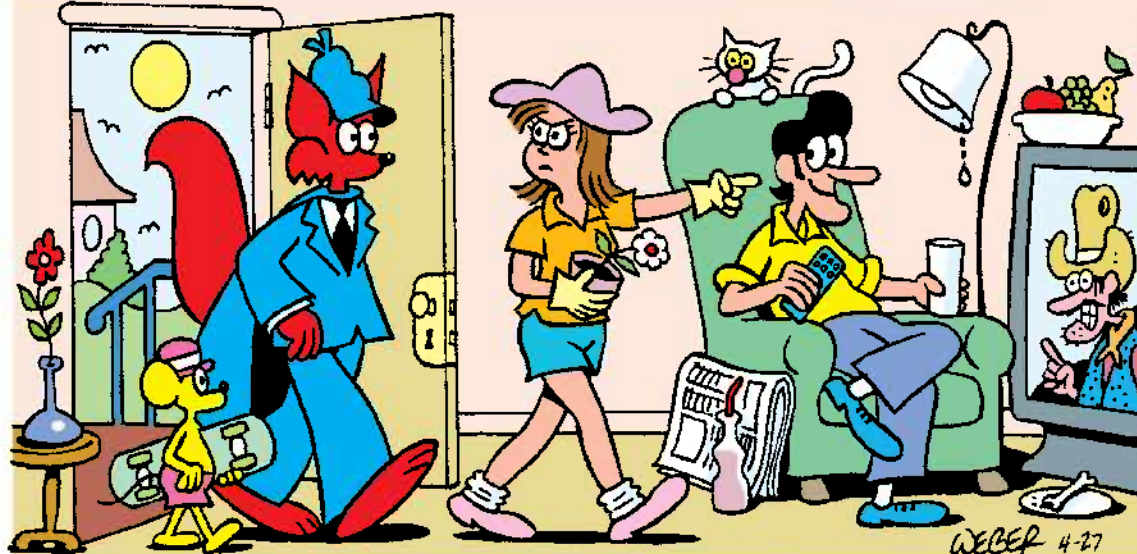
Which two scenes are exactly alike?



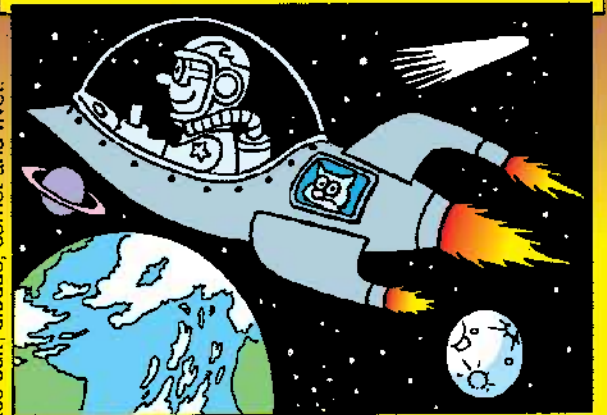
Answer -- Numbers two and four.

Ms. Mayfair says Slick Smitty sneaked into her house while she was gardening and stole her TV remote. Smitty insists the remote is his. Even if Smitty wiped away her fingerprints, how may Slylock Fox prove the remote belongs to Ms. Mayfair?

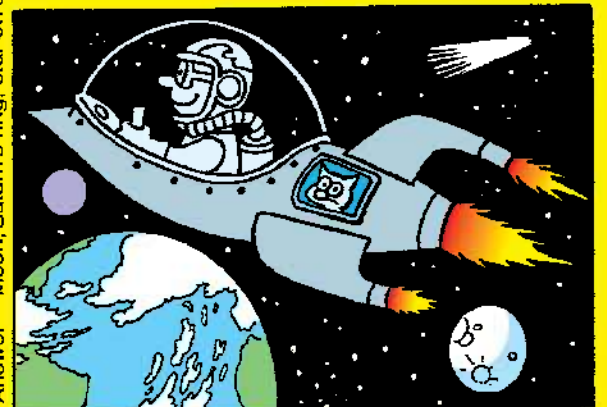
Solution -- The batteries inside the remote have Ms. Mayfair's fingerprints on their surfaces.



Find six differences between these panels.



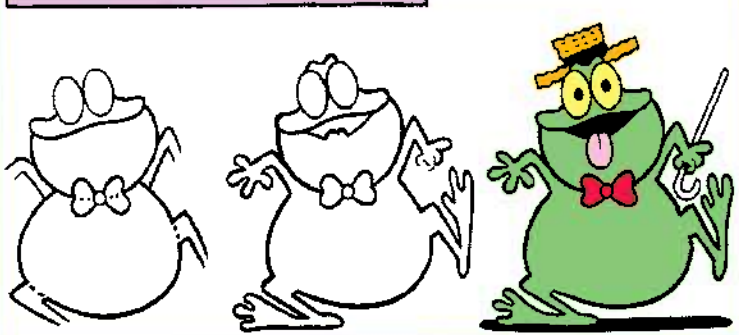
www.kidcartoonists.com



Answer -- Moon, Saturn's ring, star on space suit, clouds, comet and rivet.

New! The fourth Find the six differences collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to Six Differences No. 4, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

HOW TO DRAW a dancing frog



YOUR DRAWING

Our featured artist is Amanda Green, age 11, of Jacksonville, FL



Send your drawings to www.kidcartoonists.com

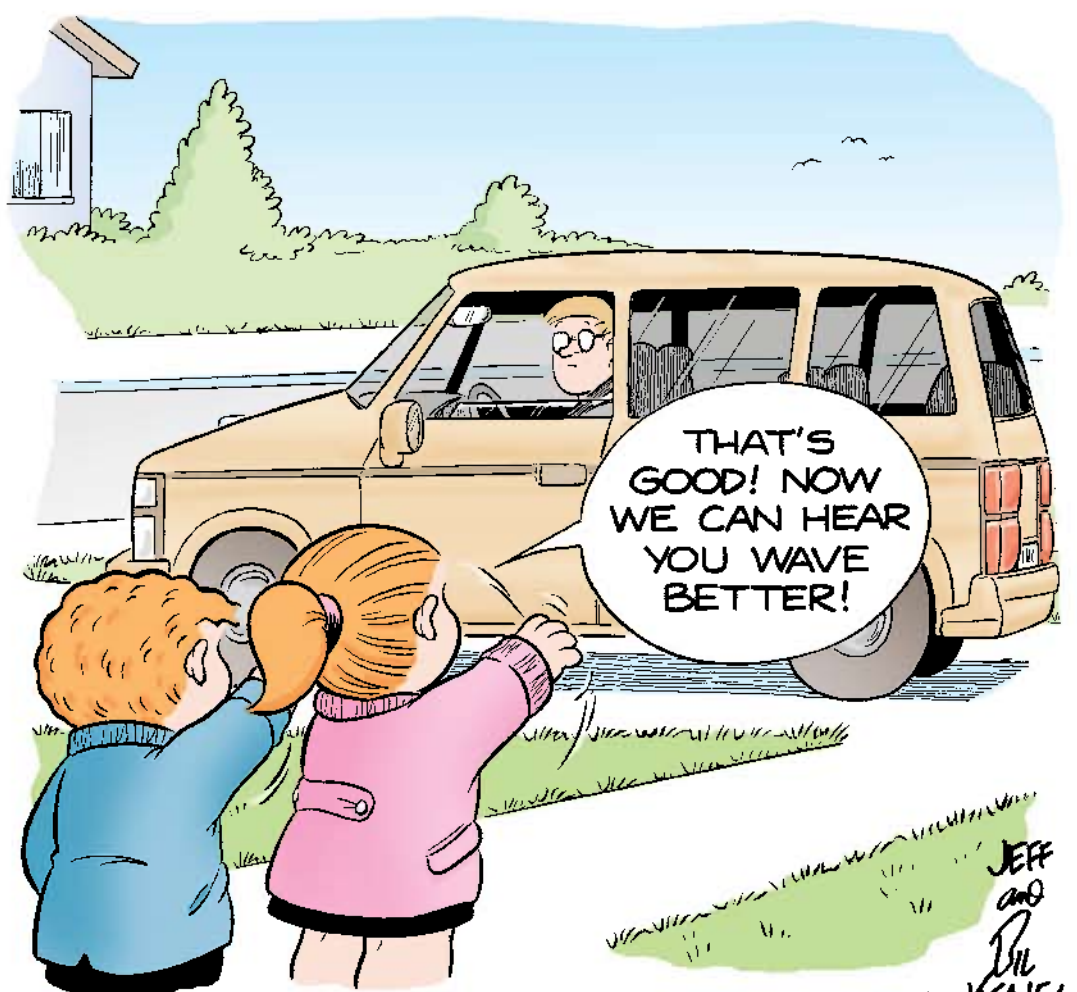
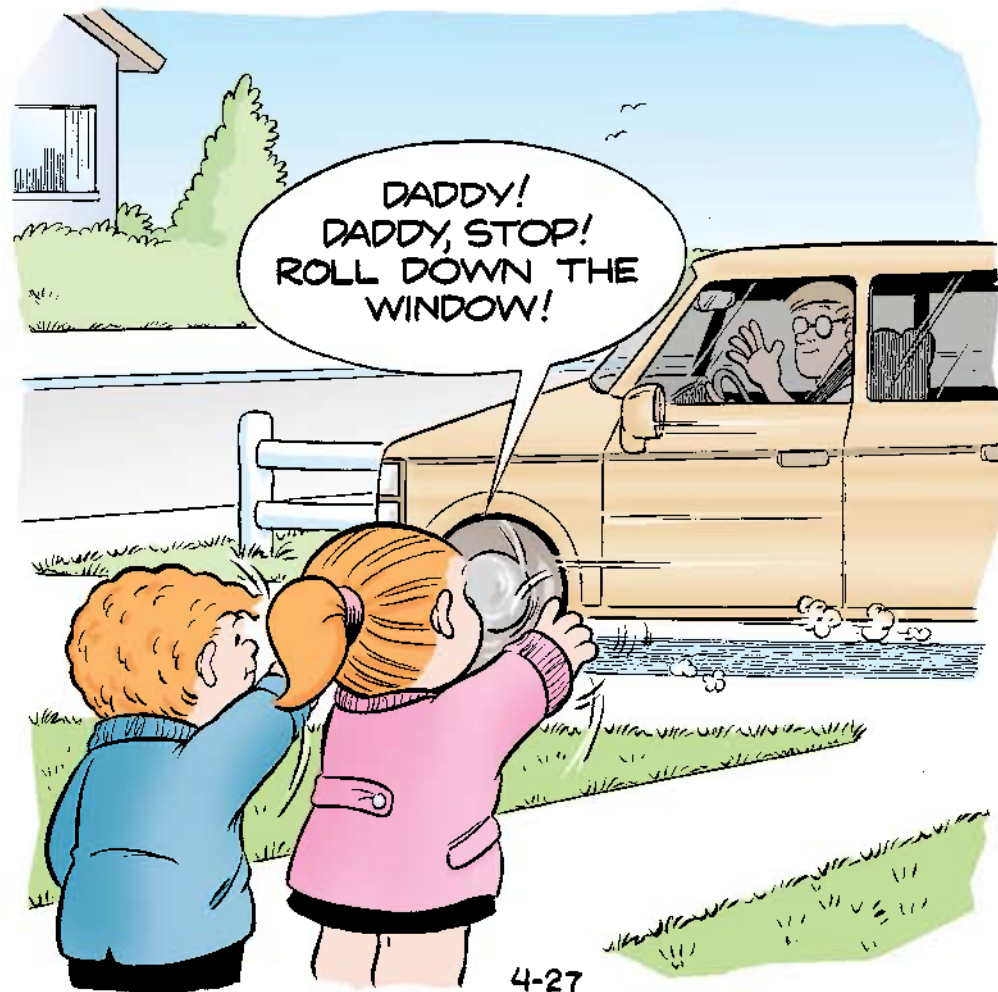
How long does it take the sun's light to reach Earth after it has been emitted from the sun's surface?

- a) 30 seconds
- b) 4 minutes
- c) 6 minutes
- d) 8 minutes

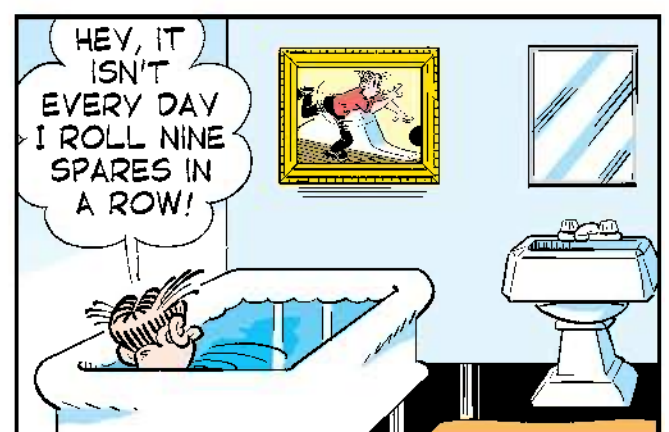
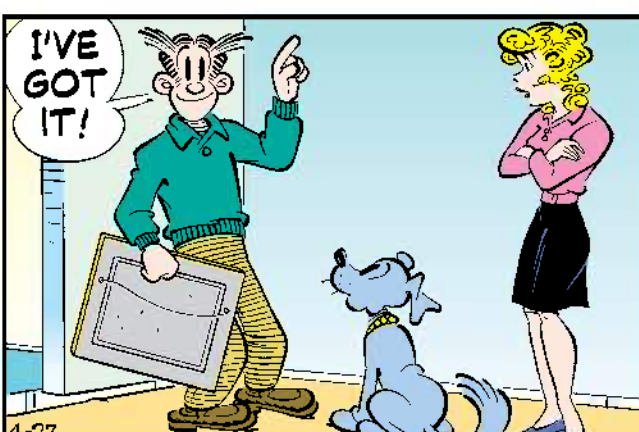
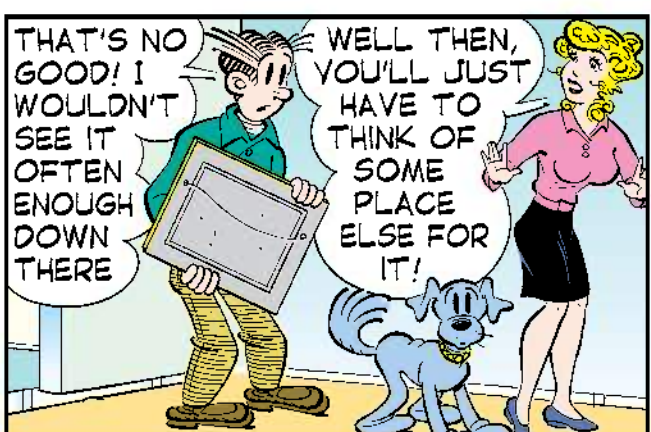
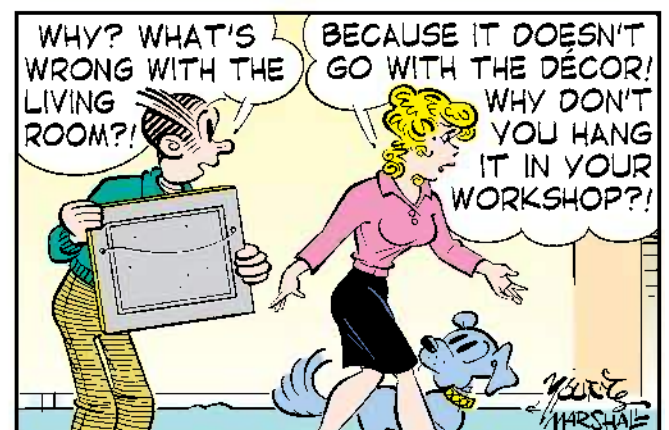
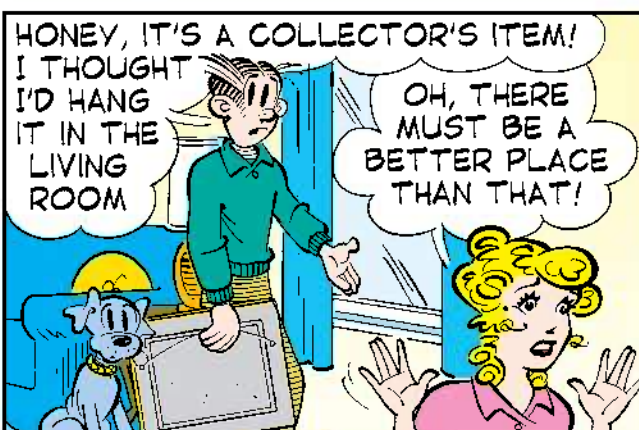
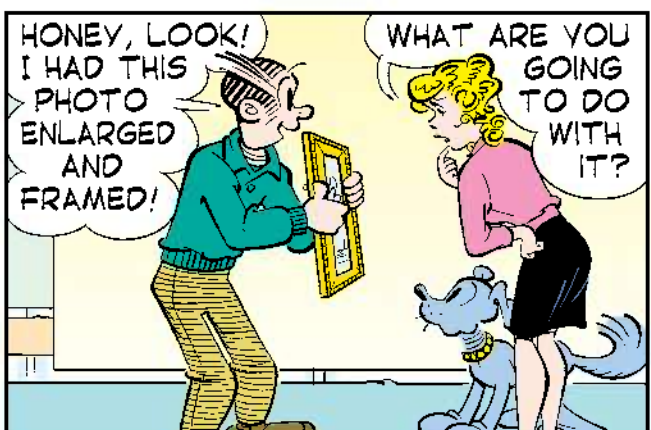
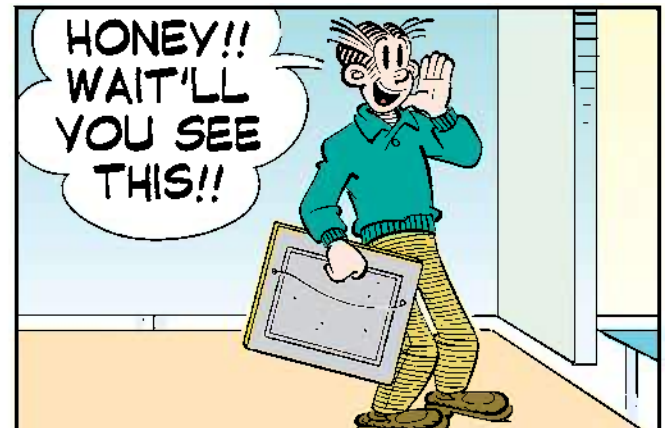
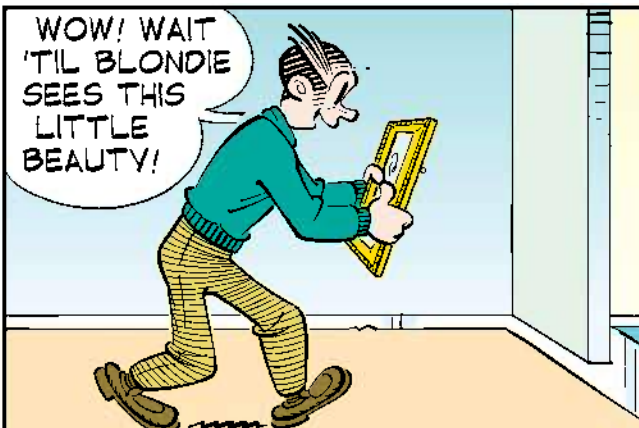
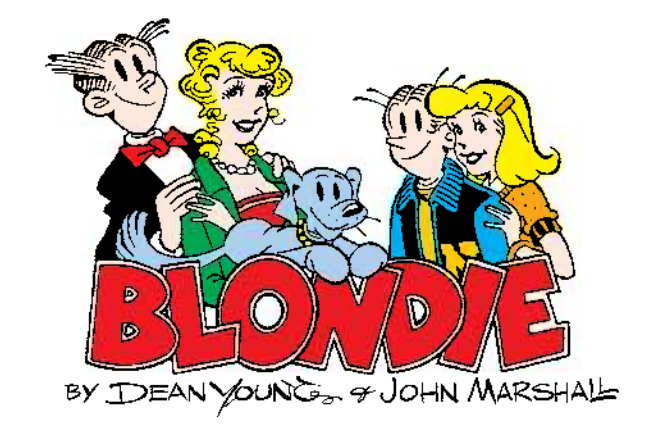
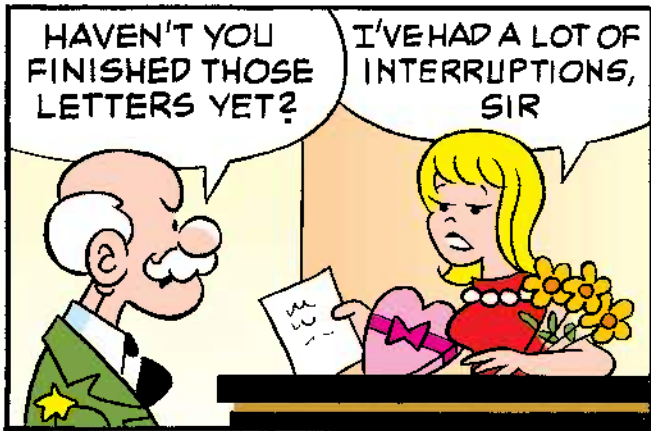
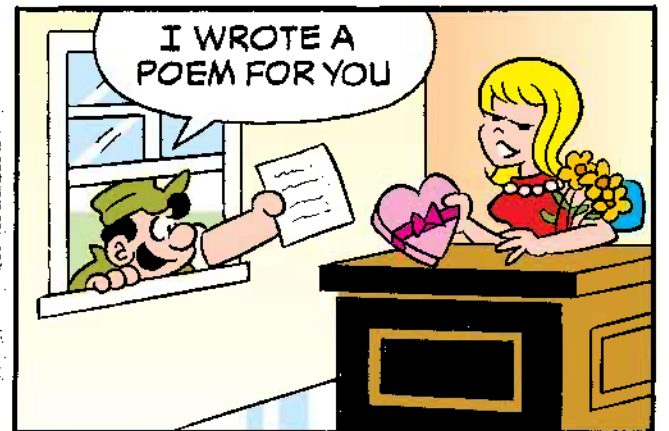
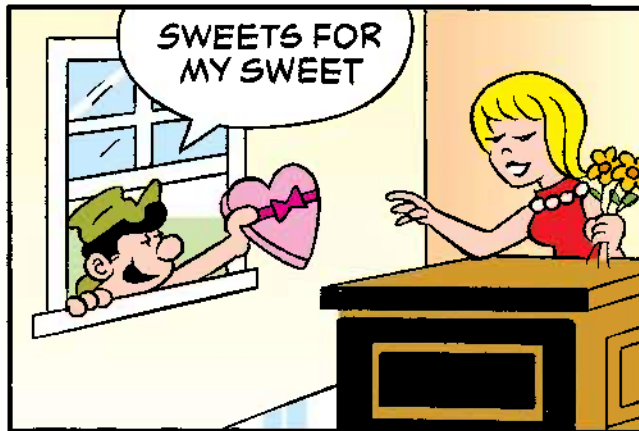
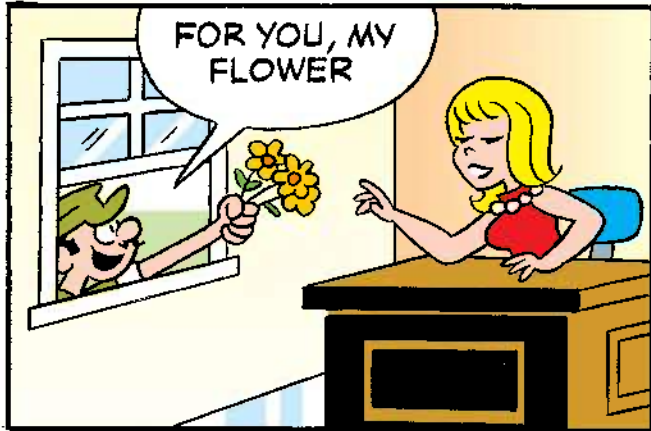
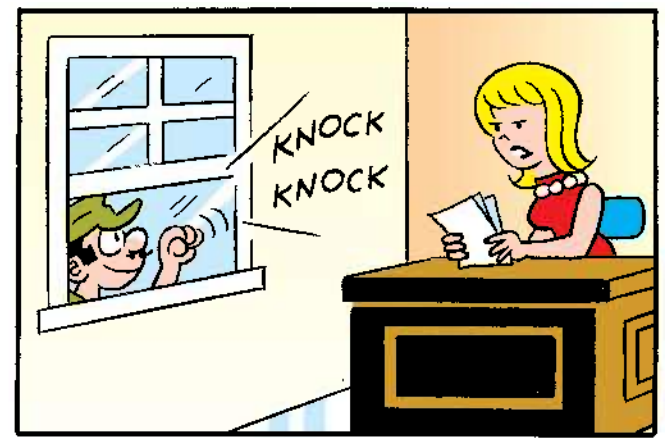
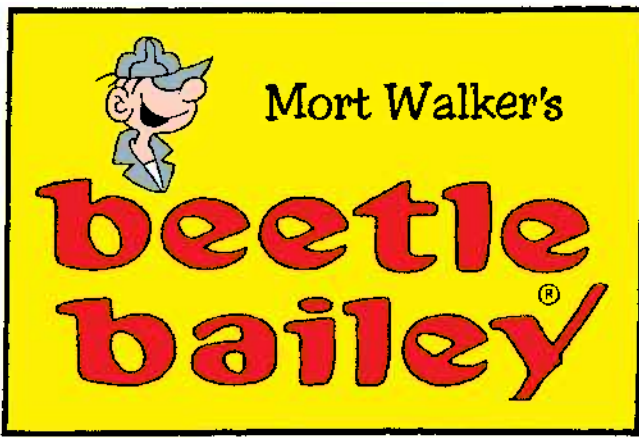
Answer -- d

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

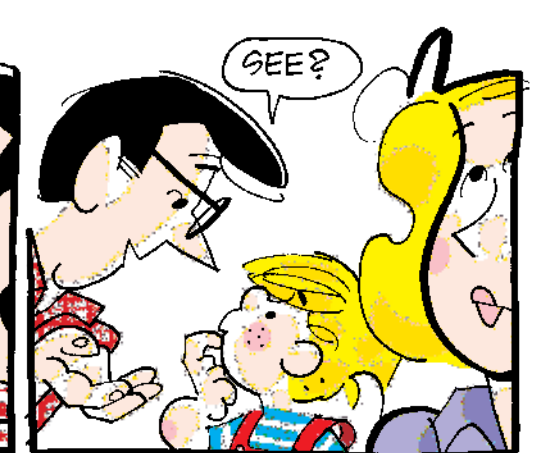
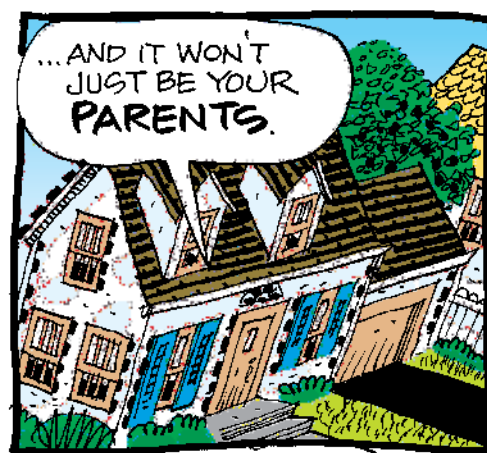
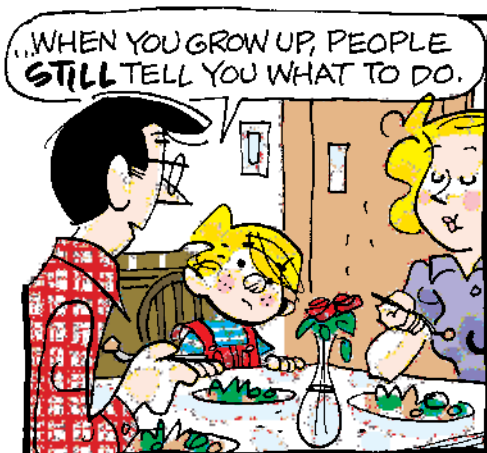
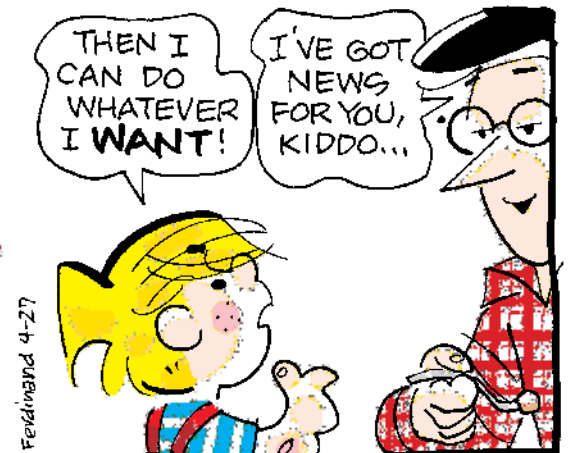
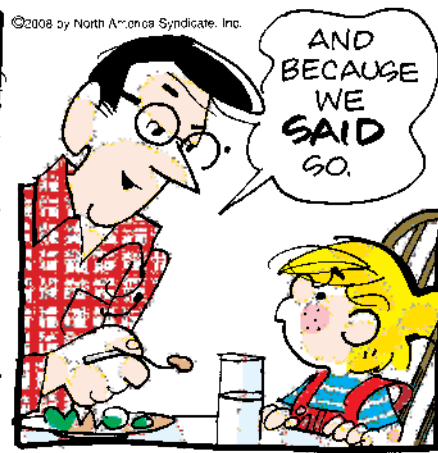
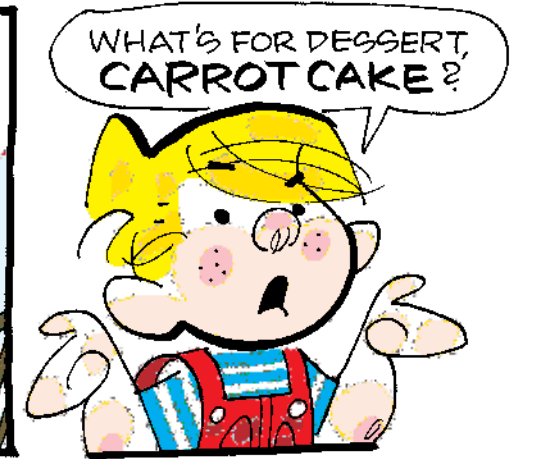
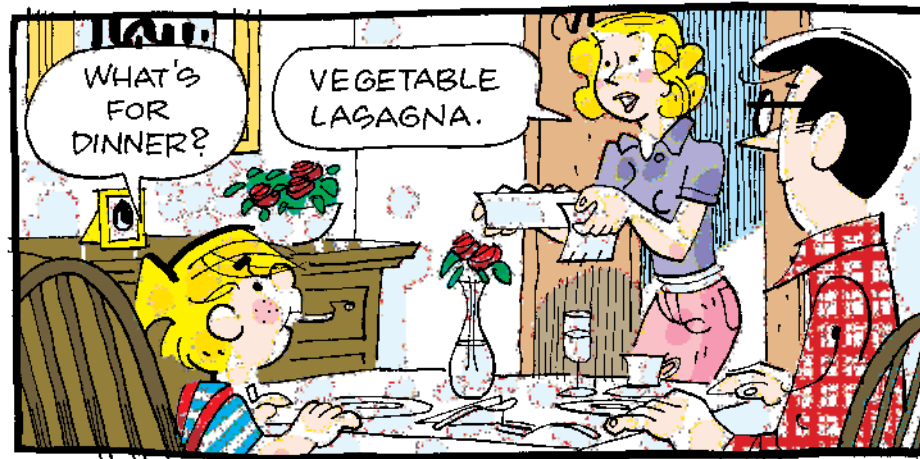
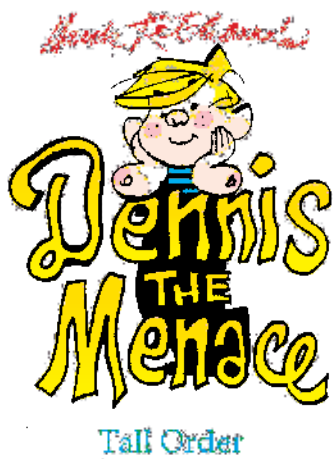
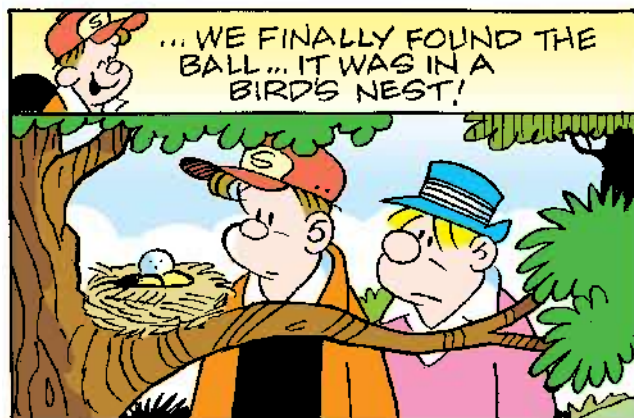
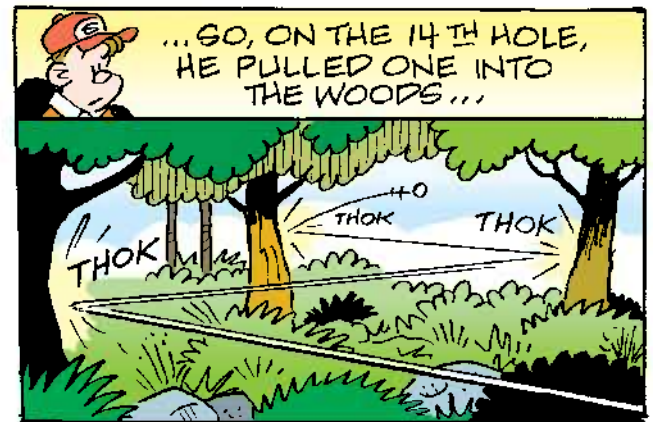
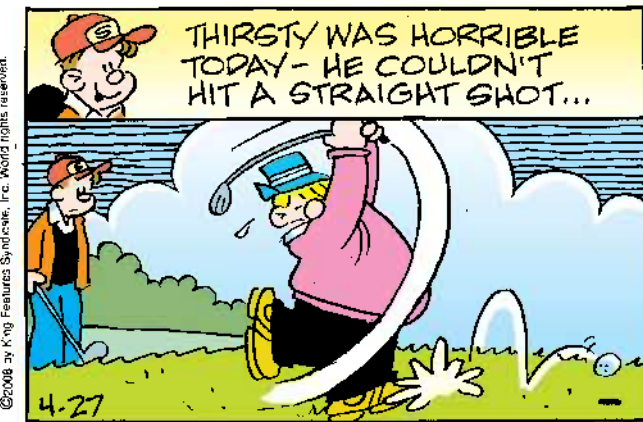
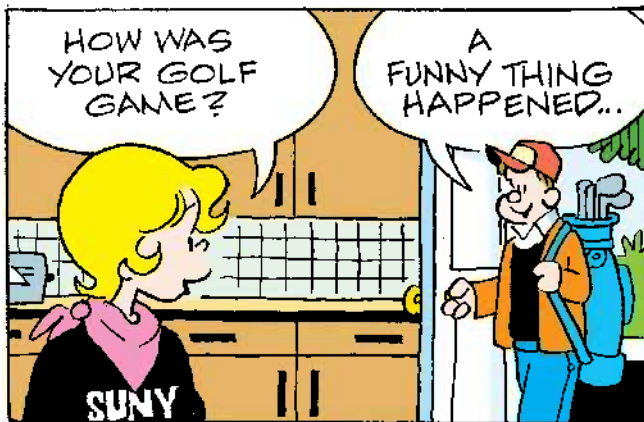
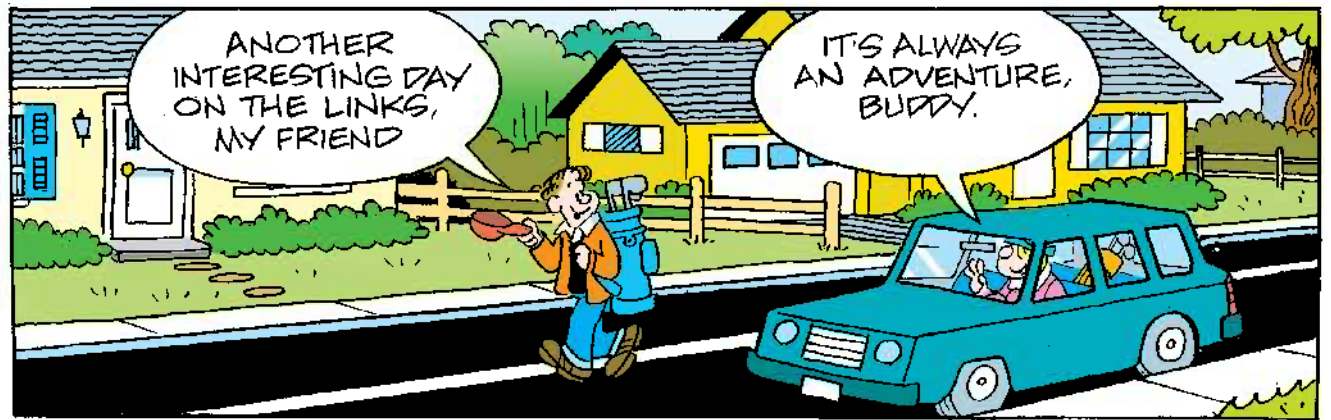
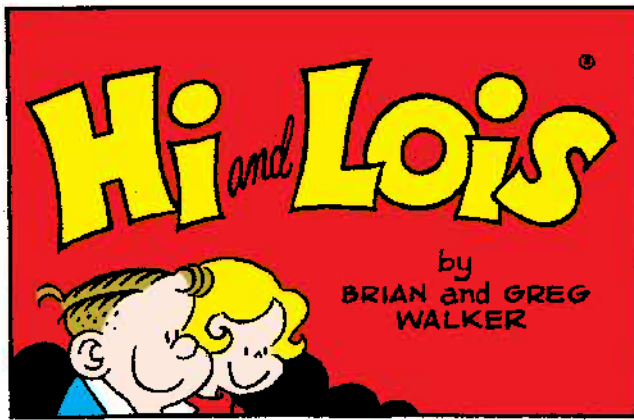
By Bill Keane







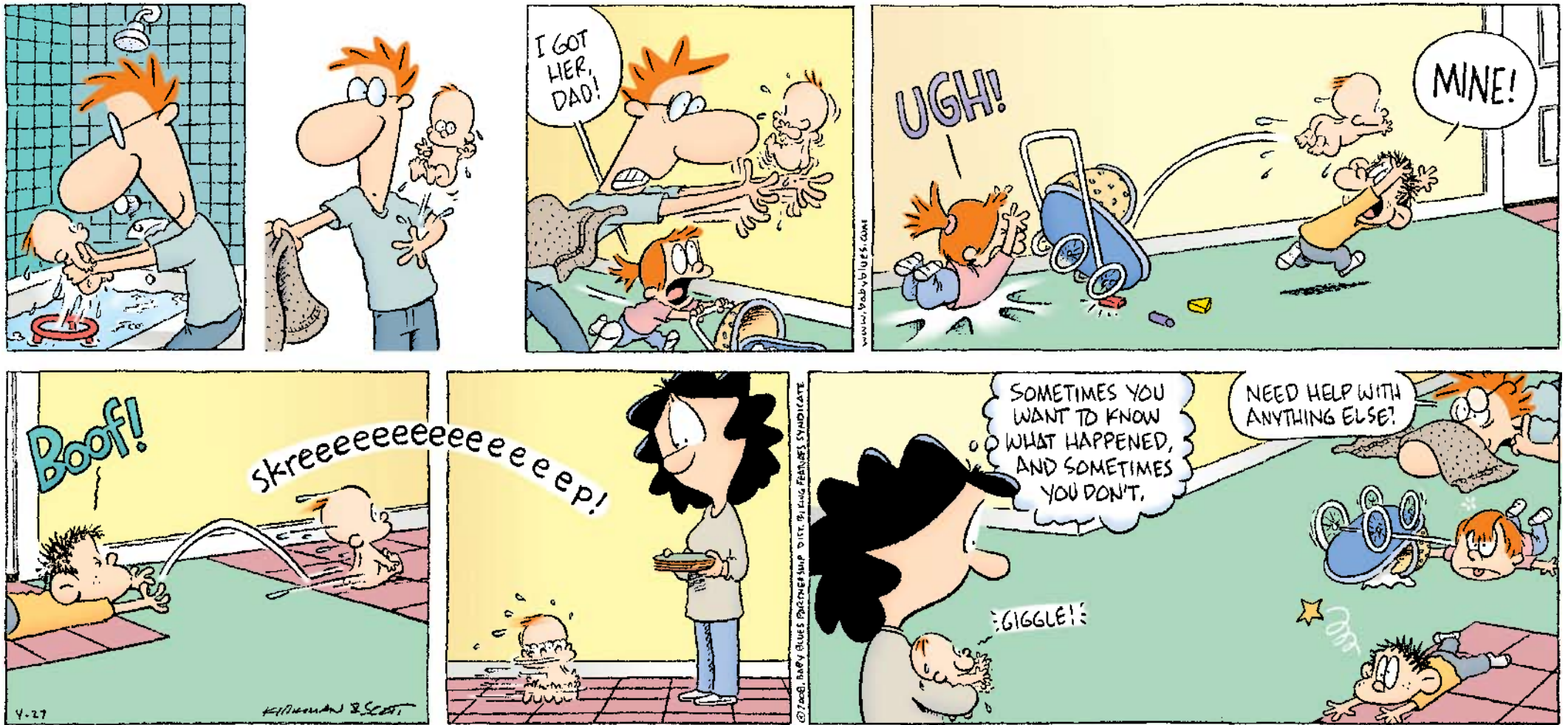






# BABY BLUES™

BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



## Salome's Stars

- ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) You easily handle your tasks this week, thanks to those high energy levels that never seem to run down. But pace yourself, Lamb, for the demanding week ahead.
- TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) With the arts dominant this week, you might want to pick up any of those creative projects you've neglected. A workplace situation benefits from some fresh insight.
- GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Music helps replenish your energy levels. Play your CDs if you must. But a live concert could prove more rewarding, especially if you go with that very special someone.
- CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Close friends reach out to help perk up your lagging social life. That workplace situation also eases, leaving you time to do more fun things by week's end.
- LEO** (July 23 to August 22) A revelation clears up that perplexing job-related problem. Some changes will have to be made, which, no doubt, will meet with the Big Cat's roaring approval. Good luck.
- VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Reaching out to someone in need is the noble thing to do. But try to restrain the temptation to add a lecture—no matter how well-intended—to your good deed.

- LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) There could be another tough challenge to face before the month is over. But all that hard work is winning you lots of important recognition from your peers.
- SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Keeping to your work schedule could prove difficult with all those personal distractions. Best advice: Stay with it. There'll be time later for socializing.
- SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Jumping hurdles this week might be vexing for most, but not for the sage Sagittarian, who recognizes that meeting a challenge can open up opportunities.
- CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) More obstacles might be thrown in your path as you try to finalize a new agreement. But the sure-footed Goat ignores the stumbling blocks and stays the course.
- AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) We know the Water Bearer takes pleasure in giving to others. But why not let someone else enjoy the experience too by accepting that offer of help?
- PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) You might find you need to ease up on your hectic schedule this week. Don't fret about it. It could be helpful to take a break and replenish your energy supply.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a way of finding practical solutions to complex problems, and you do it with grace.

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Chef's handwear  
6 Period  
9 Resort  
12 Had a home-cooked meal  
13 Poetic tribute  
14 Possesses  
15 Wild West show  
16 Destructive  
18 Laundry machine  
20 Guy  
21 Bill's partner  
23 Mai -  
24 Pie-in-the-face sound  
25 "... bug in -"  
27 Preamble  
29 Put on eBay, maybe  
31 Swarms  
35 Skinflint  
37 Oompah instrument  
38 Custom  
41 Filch  
43 English channel?  
44 Author Wister  
45 Nene's habitat  
47 Sundry  
49 Do reconnaissance  
52 Previous to  
53 Candle count  
54 March King

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16			17		
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21	22			23			24			
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38	39	40			41		42		43	
44				45			46			
47				48			49		50	51
52				53			54			
55				56			57			

- 55 Allow  
56 Supporting  
57 Beginning

### DOWN

- 1 Scratch  
2 Judge Lance  
3 Tiresome  
4 Layer  
5 Treat  
6 Slain  
7 Bloodhound's clue  
8 Cowpoke's nickname  
9 Sandbar  
10 Zahn or  
11 No liability  
17 Balance-of-trade factor  
19 Carpenter's supply  
21 Ford or Lincoln  
22 Raw rock  
24 "No seats"  
26 Early-June baby  
28 Pitch  
30 Torched  
32 Stirring skepticism  
33 Recede  
34 Pouch  
36 Whiteboard accessory  
38 Run-down home  
39 Cognizant  
40 Jaunty chapeau  
42 - profundo  
45 "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" author  
46 PC symbol  
48 LummoX  
50 Exploit  
51 Tit for -

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## top ten

### Gun-Ownin Countries

1. United States
2. Yemen
3. Finland
4. Switzerland
5. Iraq
6. Serbia
7. France
8. Canada
9. Sweden
10. Austria

Source: Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies

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### KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

M	F	T	C	A	D
S	A	R	A	C	N
L	O	G	I	C	A
C	H	I	C	K	E
D	O	C	L	A	V
V	E	R	E	B	O
M	A	I	D	S	A
Z	O	N	E	L	U
I	N	K	Q	U	I
P	E	A	N	U	T
I	R	A	I	Y	Q
A	I	S	F	A	U
S	I	R	L	E	N



# United States

## NYPD officers cleared in groom killing

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Civil rights leaders demanded a federal investigation and vowed to march through the streets in protest after three police officers were cleared of all charges Friday in the killing of an unarmed man cut down in a hail of 50 bullets on his wedding day.

The verdict by Justice Arthur Cooperman elicited gasps as

well as tears of joy and sorrow. Detective Michael Oliver, who fired 31 of the shots, wept at the defense table, while the mother of victim Sean Bell cried in the packed courtroom. Shouts of "Murderers! Murderers!" and "KKK!" rang out on the courthouse steps.

Bell, a 23-year-old black man, was killed outside a seedy

strip club in Queens in 2006 as he was leaving his bachelor party with two friends. The officers—undercover detectives who were investigating reports of prostitution at the club—said they thought one of the men had a gun.

The slaying heightened tensions in the city and stoked long-standing allegations of racism

and excessive use of force on the part of New York City's police, even though two of the officers charged are black.

In announcing his verdict in the non-jury trial, the judge said that the inconsistent testimony, courtroom demeanor and rap sheets of the prosecution witnesses—mainly Bell's friends—"had the effect of eviscerating"

their credibility.

"At times, the testimony just didn't make sense," the judge said.

Police had assigned extra officers to the courthouse and had helicopters in the air to help deal with any unrest. But within an hour, the angry, weeping crowd of about 200 people outside the courthouse had scattered, and

despite a few scuffles, no arrests were made.

Oliver and Giscard Isnora were acquitted of charges that included manslaughter, assault and reckless endangerment. The third officer, Marc Cooper, faced lesser charges.

The verdict does not entirely resolve issues surrounding the case.

## Tractor trailer rams a Chicago station, kills 2

**CHICAGO (AP)**—A tractor trailer that witnesses said didn't seem to slow down rammed into a crowded bus shelter and a Chicago Transit Authority train station during the evening rush hour Friday, killing two people and injuring more than a dozen others.

The truck smashed into the street-level bus shelter without warning, then "climbed the stairs" of the station's north stairwell around 5:20 p.m., said fire department spokesman Larry Langford.

"This is rush hour so it's bad," Langford said.

Those killed, both women, were apparently walking near the Cermak-Chinatown Red Line station on the city's South Side, Fire Department spokeswoman Eve Rodriguez said. They were dead at the scene, she said.

Twenty-one people were

transported to area hospitals, said fire department spokesman Larry Langford. Eleven were in critical condition, including four children, eight adults were in stable condition and two adults were in good condition.

Witnesses said the truck didn't appear to slow down before ramming into the station's stairwell.

Elliott Reed, 30, was walking on the street when he "heard the big bang and saw the truck go right into the station."

Reed said the scene was "surreal," with eyewitnesses asking each other, "Did you see what just happened?"

The intersection has a risky reputation because the traffic lights there change quickly, said Meekus Wong, who works at a restaurant located directly in front of the train station.



Police and rescue officials aid an injured person at the scene of a rush hour accident Friday, April 25, 2008, in Chicago. Authorities said a tractor trailer, background, rammed into an elevated Chicago Transit Authority train station killing at least two people and injuring more than a dozen others.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Sweep of polygamists' kids raises legal questions

**SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)**—The state of Texas made a damning accusation when it rounded up 462 children at a polygamist sect's ranch: The adults are forcing teenage girls into marriage and sex, creating a culture so poisonous that none should be allowed to keep their children. But the broad sweep—from nursing infants to teenagers—is raising constitutional questions, even in a state where authorities have wide latitude for taking a family's children. The move has the appearance of "a class-action child removal," said Jessica Dixon, director of the child advocacy center at Southern Methodist University's law school in Dallas. Rod Parker, a spokesman for the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, contends that the state has essentially said, "If you're a member of this religious group, then you're not allowed to have children."

#### Another charge in case of body found in Missouri

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)**—With the body of his ex-girlfriend stashed in a perfumed storage container, a man drove 1,800 miles from Utah to Las Vegas to Missouri, federal authorities said Friday as they announced a kidnapping charge. Michael Doyel admitted to the bizarre odyssey after he and the body of Deborah Jones were discovered Monday night at a Branson, Mo., motel, FBI agent Eric Lerohl said in a court affidavit. During an interview with police, Doyel said he had pledged to carve Jones' name in his arm if he "couldn't have her anymore," according to the FBI agent. Indeed, her name was "freshly

carved" on his arm when Doyel was discovered in Branson, Lerohl said. Doyel, 47, of West Valley City, was charged in federal court with kidnapping Jones; prosecutors allege she was taken against her will at some point before she died.

#### Ohio man accused of plotting Columbine-style attack

**LAKEWOOD, Ohio (AP)**—A man accused of e-mailing an Indiana teenager about conducting a Columbine-style attack on two schools was charged with conspiracy to commit murder, authorities said Friday. Lee Billi, 33, of the Cleveland suburb of Lakewood, was arrested Thursday and was being held in the city jail, a spokesman for the Cuyahoga County prosecutor said. A 16-year-old Indiana boy was arrested earlier in the week. Lakewood Police Chief Tim Malley said he didn't know how far along the two were in the alleged plan but said the two were talking about a Columbine-type plot.

#### Prosecutor: Pregnant teller wounded in robbery loses twins

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)**—A pregnant teller shot in a bank robbery has lost the twins she was carrying, and police continued to search for the gunman Friday. Katherin Shuffield, who was five months pregnant, was critically wounded when a masked gunman shot her in the abdomen Tuesday morning at a Huntington Bank branch. Authorities and the family had said the bullets had not hit the twins. Complications set in, however, and Shuffield's husband, Jason, said in a statement that the twins died late Thursday night. He said his 30-year-old wife remained in critical but stable condition at Methodist Hospital.

## Fatal shark attack closes San Diego beach

**SOLANA BEACH, Calif. (AP)**—A shark believed to be a great white killed a 66-year-old swimmer with a single, giant bite across both legs Friday as the man trained with a group of triathletes, authorities and witnesses said.

Dave Martin, a retired veterinarian from Solana Beach, was attacked at San Diego County's Tide Beach around 7 a.m., authorities and family friend Rob Hill said.

Martin was taken to a life-guard station for emergency treatment but was pronounced dead at the scene, according to a statement on the Solana Beach city Web site. His injuries

crossed both thighs, San Diego County sheriff's Sgt. Randy Webb said in a news release.

Scripps Institution of Oceanography shark expert Richard Rosenblatt says the shark was probably a great white between 12 and 17 feet long.

"It looks like the shark came up, bit him, and swam away," said Dismas Abelman, the Solana Beach deputy fire chief.

There was a single bite across both of Martin's legs, Abelman said.

The attack took place about 150 yards offshore. Several swimmers wearing wetsuits were in a group when the shark attacked, lifeguard Craig Miller

said. Two swimmers were about 20 yards ahead of the man when they heard him scream for help. They turned around and dragged him back to shore.

Swimmers were ordered out of the water for a 17-mile stretch around the attack site and county authorities sent up helicopters to scan the waters for the shark. Eight miles of beach were closed.

"The shark is still in the area. We're sure of that," Mayor Joe Kellejian said.

Hill, a member of the Triathlon Club of San Diego, said he was running on the beach while about nine other members were in the water when the attack took place.

## Man survives 500-foot fall into strip mine

**ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP)**—A man survived a 500-foot fall into a strip mine Friday, astounding rescuers who spent hours on a risky descent into the abyss to bring him back out.

Police said Nathan Bowman was trespassing on coal company property around 1 a.m. Friday when he slipped and fell into the Springdale Pit, an inactive mine about 700 feet deep, 3,000 feet long and 1,500 feet wide.

Bowman tumbled down a jagged slope and then free-fell

several hundred feet, his descent broken by a rock ledge not far from the bottom of the pit, said Coaldale Police Chief Timothy Delaney, who helped direct the rescue effort.

"If you look at that drop, there was no way somebody could survive that," Delaney said.

Bowman, 23, of Tamaqua, was in serious condition Friday night at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem. The extent and nature of his injuries was not clear, although rescuer John Fowler

said it appeared he suffered a number of fractures.

Bowman and a friend were walking around the pit when he went over the side. The friend called 911, and Coaldale police and firefighters began a frantic search, according to Delaney.

State police got into the act several hours later, using a helicopter, floodlights and thermal imaging to try to pinpoint Bowman's location in the pit, about 90 miles northwest of Philadelphia.



# Asia

## Heavy security surrounds Japan Olympic torch relay

**NAGANO, Japan** (AP)—Olympic torch bearers dashed past sporadic protests Saturday as heavy security marked the Japanese leg of the world relay—streets lined by thousands of riot police and closely monitored by helicopters overhead.

Police guards in track suits surrounded the torch bearers and another 100 uniformed riot police trotted alongside six patrol cars and two motorcycles. They were backed up by thousands of other police.

Japanese officials said the high-profile security was unavoidable, but it dissipated any festive mood in Nagano, which hosted the 1998 Winter Games.

■ ■ ■

**BEIJING (AP)**—China agreed

**Friday to meet an envoy of the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, bending to rising calls for talks after weeks of anti-government protests by his supporters that threatened to tarnish the Beijing Olympics.**

**The communist government's statement stops well short of restarting actual negotiations on what the exiled Tibetan characterizes as alleged cultural and religious repression in his homeland.**

**It also restates long-established preconditions for negotiations, including that the Dalai Lama unambiguously recognize Tibet as a part of China. Their reappearance and the timing of Friday's announce-**

**ment could forestall any immediate breakthroughs.**

■ ■ ■

Minor scuffling and protests broke out during the event.

Two men were arrested separately in the first half of the relay, each trying to charge the torch, and a third man was apprehended later after throwing eggs at the flame. All were quickly pounced on by police, police official Chihiro Usui said.

National broadcaster NHK reported a smoke-emitting tube was thrown at the relay, but without effect. Marchers yelling "Free Tibet" crowded the streets near the route. And four people were slightly injured in different scuffles, fire officials said.

## Bus bomb kills 24 in Sri Lanka

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka** (AP)—A bomb hidden on the baggage rack of a packed, rush-hour bus exploded Friday evening outside Colombo, killing 24 people in an attack that the military blamed on Tamil Tiger rebels.

Ambulances with sirens wailing flooded a nearby hospital, where off-duty doctors and nurses ran in to help the 40 people who

were wounded in the blast. One hospital was so overwhelmed it had to divert some of the injured to a second medical center.

Among the dead brought to the morgue was a Buddhist monk and a small child.

The bomb exploded about 6:45 p.m. at the bus depot in the town of Piliyandala just south of the capital, sending pieces of seats flying, witnesses said.

The roof of the red public bus, which was about to depart for the nearby town of Kahapola, was torn apart and its windows—and those of nearby buildings—were shattered.

The bomb was hidden in a parcel on the overhead rack near the front of the bus, said a military spokesman, Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara, who blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

## Misuari freed for peace talks with RP govt

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A Muslim rebel leader who was jailed for leading a botched uprising was freed on bail Friday so he can join a review of a peace agreement with the government.

Nur Misuari founded the Moro National Liberation Front, the Philippines' largest separatist

group. It signed a historic 1996 peace accord in exchange for limited autonomy for Muslims in the country's restive south.

He was arrested in 2001 and charged with rebellion after his followers launched an attack that killed about 100 people on the southern island of Jolo. He was initially detained in a police

camp outside Manila but was later held under house arrest.

The Justice Department said the court order granting him bail was in line with a recent Cabinet decision. Peace process adviser Jesus Dureza welcomed the decision, calling Misuari "a partner for peace and development."



### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Marine charged with rape of 14-year-old girl in Japan

**TOKYO** (AP)—An American Marine will be court-martialed on charges of raping a 14-year-old girl in Okinawa, the military said Friday, in a case that has stirred anger against U.S. bases in Japan and triggered tight restrictions on troop movements. Staff Sgt. Tyrone L. Hadnott faces charges of rape of a child under 16, abusive sexual conduct, making a false official statement, adultery and "kidnapping through inveigling," or trickery, the Marines said in a statement. The announcement followed an indictment Thursday in another high-profile case involving a U.S. serviceman. Olatunbosun Ugbogu, a 22-year-old Nigerian in the Navy, was charged with fatally stabbing a taxi driver south of Tokyo in March.

#### Japan sees wave of suicides using detergent-produced gas

**TOKYO** (AP)—At least four people killed themselves Friday by inhaling fumes from a detergent mixed with other chemicals amid a wave of similar suicides that has reportedly claimed about 50 lives this month in Japan. Authorities are alarmed by the sudden rise in such incidents—an average of two a day were reported in April—because the chemicals are easy to get and the fumes could

spread to affect bystanders or rescuers. A 47-year-old man killed himself Friday in a Tokyo luxury hotel, said Fire Department official Toshiyuki Miyake. Officials said emergency workers also found a 29-year-old man dead in his Tokyo apartment; a man in his 50s at a public gymnasium in northern Tokyo; and a man in his 30s in an apartment in nearby Yokohama. All died after inhaling hydrogen sulfide gas, produced by mixing detergent and a bath lotion.

#### Police: Australian swallows drugs, dies

**BANGKOK, Thailand** (AP)—A suspected Australian drug smuggler died after some of the 60 hashish-packed condoms he allegedly swallowed burst, Thai police said Friday. John Paul Jones, 51, died in southern Thailand on Saturday after an X-ray allegedly found 60 hashish-packed condoms weighing a total of 28 ounces in his stomach, Lt. Col. Weerasak Pokarat said. The scattered drugs badly affected his colon and liver, Weerasak said, adding the Australian Embassy was informed of his death. He said if Jones had survived, he would have faced a drug trafficking charge, carrying a maximum prison term of 20 years. Weerasak said Jones had been charged with possession of hashish in 2006 but was acquitted after a yearlong trial.

# Across The Globe

## US contracted ship fires warning shots

**CAIRO, Egypt** (AP)—A civilian ship contracted by the U.S. military fired warning shots at two small boats that approached it in the Persian Gulf, the U.S. Navy said Friday, the latest in a string of similar incidents to trigger concern in Washington.

The U.S. military has been wary of small boats operating near its ships since an explosive-laden vessel rammed the USS Cole as it refueled off Yemen in 2000, killing 17 sailors.

Those fears were heightened in recent months by several incidents in the Gulf's narrow Strait of Hormuz, where small Iranian boats have approached American warships despite warnings to alter course. Senior U.S. military officials have warned Iran about the risk of triggering an unintended conflict if its boats continue to confront American ships.

The Navy said it does not know whether the two boats that approached the Western Venture cargo ship on Thursday were from Iran. Iranian officials have denied their vessels were involved.

Last month, a U.S. Navy-contracted ship fired warning shots at approaching motor boats in the Suez Canal, accidentally killing an Egyptian citizen.

## Foreigners may need permits to visit Amazon

**BRASILIA, Brazil** (AP)—Sixty percent of Brazil could soon be off-limits to foreigners who don't get special permission to visit the world's largest tropical wilderness.

Those caught in the Amazon without a permit granted by military and justice authorities could face a fine of US\$60,000.

The government plans to send Congress a bill to require the permits within months, National Justice Secretary Romeu Tuma Jr. told The Associated Press on Friday.

The bill is designed to prevent foreign meddling and illegal activity. It would cover all activity in the area Brazil considers the "legal Amazon"—including nature tours, business trips or visits to any cities across 2 million square miles (5.2 million sq. kilometers).

"We want to establish the Amazon as ours," Tuma said. "We want the world to visit the region. But we want them to tell us when they're coming and what they're going to do."

## Zimbabwe police storm opposition, poll offices

**HARARE, Zimbabwe** (AP)—Riot police and intelligence officers ransacked opposition party headquarters and the offices of independent election monitors Friday, hauling away material documenting President Robert Mugabe's apparent electoral defeat.

Hundreds of people were arrested in the raids, which sent a powerful message that Zimbabwe's longtime leader intends to hold onto power despite a growing global clamor for him to step aside and rising violence at home.

Pregnant women, mothers with babies strapped to their backs, girls who had been threatened with rape and men with broken bones were among those herded into a bus and pickup truck during Friday's raid on opposition headquarters.

Morgan Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change and the independent Zimba-

bwe Electoral Support Network both maintain Tsvangirai won the March 29 presidential vote, based on their own surveys of tallies posted at ballot stations. Official results have yet to be released.

About 250 riot police wielding batons arrested about 300 people in a sweep on the opposition's Harvest House offices in the capital, Harare, the party reported.

It said the detainees included scores of opposition supporters who had sought refuge there from a brutal postelection revenge campaign in the countryside.

"Their homes were burned," said Thokozani Khupe, a party vice president. "Some have been brutally assaulted."

Assistant Police Commissioner Wayne Bvudzijena said those arrested were suspected of "crimes committed in the countryside."



AP

Residents watch from a building destroyed in the conflict with Israel, as Palestinian Hamas supporters, not seen, gather during a protest calling on Egypt to re-open the border and Israel to end its economic blockade in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, on the border with Egypt, Friday, April, 25, 2008.

## One Palestinian killed, 7 hurt in clashes with Israeli troops

**GAZA CTIY, Gaza Strip** (AP)—Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen are exchanging heavy fire in northern Gaza. Medics say one Palestinian has been killed.

The clashes began before dawn Saturday when an Israeli undercover force entered a border area. Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants fired at the force. They used machine guns, mor-

tars and homemade bombs.

Israel sent in dozens of tanks, and aircraft provided cover. Medics say the aircraft have launched five missile strikes since before dawn. One Palestinian was killed and seven wounded in the strikes. Three of the wounded are in critical condition.

The sound of explosions can be heard across northern Gaza.



# Focus

## Wrong turn puts family on tragic path

By **WILSON RING**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**KEESEVILLE, N.Y. (AP)**—A simple wrong turn led to the destruction of Elvia Salgado Martinez's family.

It was about 2 a.m. when she and her husband, Santiago Tapia, left the motel on Route 9 in Keeseville, nestled between the Adirondack Mountains and Lake Champlain, to look for a hospital. The 24-year-old Mexican immigrant was 5 1/2 months pregnant, and the pains had been getting worse for a day. She started to bleed.

But rather than heading north for the hospital in Plattsburgh, Tapia got on the interstate headed south, toward Albany. Three exits later, realizing the mistake, they turned around.

That was when they saw a New York State Police cruiser in their rearview mirror, its lights flashing. And that was when their lives quickly became unraveled.

"My husband speaks a little English. He explained to them that I was pregnant. He told them in English he was going above the limit at 78 because I felt bad and it was urgent that we get to the hospital," Salgado told an Associated Press reporter in Spanish during an interview 12 days after the March 31 stop. "He said that in English and the

came to teach in the rural schools near Cuernavaca, in the Mexican state of Morelos south of Mexico City.

She insists they had no intention of settling in the United States; the plan was to save money to pay for their education and help her family. They arrived illegally in February of 2005, walking through the desert from the Mexican state of Sonora, which abuts Arizona.

In less than a week, they arrived in a town near Syracuse and went to work with Tapia's brother. "He said we could come here and make good money," she said.

They paid off the \$6,000 loan they took out to hire a "coyote," or smuggler, to take them across the border and after a season in western New York, moved to Bennington, Vt. It was there they were arrested for the first time.

They were living with a group of immigrants when one bought a car he didn't know how to drive and hit a tree. Salgado said the police came with dogs, kicked in their door and searched everything.

"They treated us like delinquents," she said.

The next day, Border Patrol agents from northern Vermont came and picked them up.

Salgado said she didn't know why

They worked together in the nursery. "The boss didn't pay us much," she said. But they both worked 12-hour days, six or seven days a week. "It was to put together a bit of money."

They left the Burlington area last fall after the growing season ended and moved to New Jersey. It was there they learned she was pregnant. Six months previously she'd had a miscarriage.

"I really wanted this baby. We didn't want to lose him," she said.

So at her husband's insistence, she stopped work when they learned she was pregnant. The couple moved to Keeseville and took jobs packaging apple slices—no heavy lifting. They'd been there only two weeks when the pains started.

■ ■ ■

On the interstate, Salgado said, the first thing the troopers did was ask for their immigration papers. They then accused the pair of smuggling drugs. With her permission, they searched the car.

New York State Police Capt. John Tibbitts, who commands the area in Lewis where the stop took place, said the radio log showed that his troopers stopped Salgado and Tapia's car at 2:55 a.m. The Spanish-speaking trooper was called at 3:08. He arrived 10 minutes later and the ambulance was called a



AP

Elvia Salgado Martinez sits on a children's swingset near her hotel in Keeseville, N.Y., Saturday, April 12, 2008 holding an urn containing the ashes of her son Kody, who was born at Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital in Plattsburgh at 5:19 a.m. on March 31.

the Border Patrol they had possible illegal aliens. The Border Patrol agent who went to the hospital verified that Salgado could stay in the country and took Tapia into custody, officials said. Tapia did get to spend a few minutes with his son before being taken away, Salgado said.

The baby was rushed by ambulance to the neonatal intensive care unit at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, Vt. Later that morning Salgado was discharged from the Plattsburgh hospital; she used a voucher given to her by a social worker to take a taxi to Vermont.

In Burlington, the hospital staff found her a room so she could stay near her son. Then someone noticed Salgado was sick; she had a dangerous infection, and was treated at the hospital, even as her son was struggling for life.

A Spanish-speaking priest baptized Kody on April 1. A day later, at 3:35 p.m., the child died.

He lived just less than 60 hours.

■ ■ ■

Salgado last saw her husband at the Clinton County jail, two days before he was moved to a detention center in Batavia. Because he'd already been deported once, there were few formalities needed to deport him again. Immigration and Customs Enforcement says he was returned to Mexico on April 18. Salgado doesn't know she'll see Tapia again. She's spoken with him on the phone a few times.

"He wants to come back, but I told him 'no,'" she said. "I don't want him to come up again, because if he does,

he'd go through the danger again" of crossing the desert.

She went back to work before the doctor told her she could; her employer has treated her well and paid for her room while she was out, but she's got to make money—she has no insurance, and is starting to get medical bills for thousands of dollars. Groups that help immigrant farm workers in New York are taking an interest in her case and her employer has put her in touch with a lawyer in Plattsburgh.

She would like to take Kody's remains back to Mexico for burial, but she can't afford to miss work, and she can't afford to risk her tenuous immigration status.

Salgado is convinced that without the delay at the side of the interstate, doctors could have prevented Kody's premature birth. Privacy laws prevent the hospitals from talking about Salgado's case. But in general, they say sometimes doctors can stop pre-term labor, sometimes they can't.

She harbors her memories of a child whose entire life spanned 2 1/2 days. She has an album with pictures of Kody, both before and after he died. She has a doll-sized sweater he wore, his hospital identification bracelet and other mementos, all packed in a colorful box provided by Fletcher Allen.

At one point, she says, her tiny boy—tethered to the intensive care unit—grabbed her finger and wouldn't let go.

"The nurses told me he knew who I was," she said, her sorrow intermingled with joy.

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policeman understood perfectly, but he (the policeman) said, 'No, it was nothing but a lie.'"

It wasn't until a Spanish-speaking trooper arrived that an ambulance was called.

If the bilingual officer hadn't come, "I don't think they'd have moved us from there," Salgado said. "I think they would have taken us to jail."

Three weeks later, Salgado is back living in the motel, alone, without family, friends or anyone who speaks Spanish. Her husband is back in Mexico and the ashes of her son rest in a white ceramic urn in the shape of an angel.

■ ■ ■

Salgado is 24 with a round face, polite and well spoken. A high school graduate with a year of technical education, she met the man who became her husband when he

authorities let her go and not the others. In some low-risk cases, the Border Patrol will release immigrants while their cases are processed, said Bradley Curtis, a Border Patrol supervisor for northeastern New York and Vermont. "Everything is decided case by case."

Salgado came away with paperwork that lets her remain in the United States as long as she makes court appearances in Boston; she has permission to stay through next March, officials say.

After her husband was deported, Salgado moved to northwestern Vermont. She lived in a house with other workers, but she had her own room, and she worked at a garden nursery, saving enough money for her husband to cross the border again.

Which he did, four months after he was deported.

few minutes after that.

The radio log of the Essex County Emergency Services said its ambulance arrived on scene at 3:52, left with Salgado at 3:56 and arrived at the hospital at 4:45 a.m.

Tibbitts said state police rules don't allow troopers to let people with medical conditions speed to the hospital; in such cases police must call an ambulance.

"As far as I can tell everything was done pretty expeditiously," Tibbitts said. "They had the best care available, sooner rather than later."

Kody Salgado Martinez was born at 5:19 a.m. He was 15 1/2-weeks premature, and weighed just 27 ounces.

"He was well formed. He was just short the time," Salgado said.

Meanwhile, the state police notified



## Life & Style

# Fashion gala highlights bridal fair and expo

The islands' first ever Bridal Fair and Party Exhibit kicked off yesterday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan with a Party Exhibit opening in the morning and the official Bridal Fair opening in the afternoon.

The fair, which is being eyed to become an annual event, is co-hosted by Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan and the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Organized by Saipan Grand's events manager and wedding planner Oscar Yema, the fair brings together under one roof all vendors and suppliers related to weddings and wedding receptions, giving future brides and grooms a sort of one-stop-shop for all their nuptial needs.

The Bridal Fair and Party Exhibit will continue today, still at the Hibiscus Hall, starting at 10am. Even more exciting in today's segment is the Party and Bridal Makeup Competition, which takes place at 6pm, immediately followed by a Bridal Fashion Show at 8pm.

Former *Saipan Tribune* reporter Marconi Calindas sits down with Oscar Yema to talk about all things related to weddings and how he can make your special day even more extra special.

**Q: How long have you been a wedding planner?**

A: I have been a wedding planner since 1996.

**Q: How did you start? Can you describe your first wedding event?**

A: It started 12 years ago, while planning my own wedding. My wife, who is a self-confessed non-artist, gave me the green light as she said that I was the one who appreciates art and beauty more. I got my wedding mementos from the southern part of the Philippines. It was a handcrafted bamboo décor made by the children whose parents were killed during insurgency conflicts in Mindanao, the Philippines. Our invitations were made of recycled paper done by children at the Elsie Gaches Village, a home for abandoned special children.

The venue was at the Equestrian Club by the pool with a luau theme. My bride was the only one in white and the rest of the entourage was wearing a printer floral design fabric. There were floating

flowers and candles in the pool. It was almost perfect but the rain started pouring. The outdoor wedding was moved inside the Club House. I learned to plan a wedding the hard way.

Since then, I have made wedding planning a business on the side. I put up a company called Multimedia Artist and Associates in Manila that does events. One of the services is wedding planning. We provide the A to Z's of wedding—from coordination of venue, church, catering, and gowns to invitations, musicians, wedding singers, photos, videos and after wedding services.

**Q: What makes you different from other wedding planners?**

A: I am the events and banquet manager for Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan and Saipan Grand Hotel. What makes me different is that I am "in-house" thus my services are free of charge.

**Q: How many weddings have you planned so far?**

A: In the Philippines, I only accept big weddings because it is just something that I do on the side. Here on Saipan, since we have two hotels, we have a wedding every week, sometimes back-to-back or simultaneous in Fiesta or Grand.

**Q: Any major weddings you'd planned?**

A: The biggest wedding I planned was a singer-celebrity in Manila. Guest was 400 pax and venue was the Grand Ballroom of the Shangri-La Hotel. Just

for the flowers and decoration, it took us two days to finish because of the draping and cloth formed the high ceiling of the hotel. It was a multimedia event with a lot audio-visual presentation, from the prayer, to the introduction of the newlyweds, to greetings and a short movie of their love story. The huge screen was perfect for the occasion.

**Q: How long have been planning weddings here in the CNMI?**

A: I have been an events manager for almost two years now here on Saipan.

**Q: What differentiates your wedding events to other hotels?**

A: Our weddings at Fiesta and Grand are customized. It is different from each one and we come up with a theme for each wedding. We don't copy from one wedding to another. We make sure that each one is unique and we make sure it fits the personality of the bride and groom.

**Q: What can we expect from your wedding events?**

A: If you'd read each testimonial of our past weddings, people would know the answer to your question. They too can experience the satisfaction people got from our wedding events in the past.



### Pangelinan - Borja Nuptials

"To our wedding planner, OSCAR YEMA, thank you so much for the photos and videos of my wedding. You did such an amazing job. You went above and beyond and your special extra touches are greatly appreciated."

The set up of the reception area was exactly what I pictured it beautiful and exquisite. I was mostly fond of the centerpieces; they were radiant, yet delicate and with the oil candles in the middle and the light night air, they gave a sense of elegance to each table. The "White Tulle" display on the top of the tall lamps and a fashionable wrapped vase used as a wishing well, really dressed the area perfectly. I also loved the white cloth coming down from the ceiling with a touch of silver and other flowers going down each arm of the well trellis. You're decorating really helped make our wedding unforgettable, and my husband and I can't thank you enough.

You are absolutely wonderful and I will strongly recommend you at every opportunity. Thank you very much again!"

Gary and Vanessa  
April 12, 2008



The Wedding Planner 09





# Hollywood animal trainer distraught over fatal bear attack

**BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif.** (AP)—The owner of a wild animal training center where a grizzly bear killed a handler says the animal is a “loving, affectionate, friendly, safe bear,” but he is at a loss to explain how a “simple routine” turned tragic.

In an emotional phone interview with The Associated Press late Wednesday, Randy Miller said he was overwhelmed with grief at the death of his cousin, Stephan Miller, who was killed Tuesday during the filming of a promotional video at Randy Miller's Predators in Action center.

“It's ... killing me. We were brothers,” Randy Miller said, close to tears.

Miller, who witnessed the attack, would not talk in detail about what happened, but said the bear, a 5-year-old male named Rocky, was trained to wrestle with experienced handlers.

“It's a playful behavior brought out on cue,” he said.

But when Rocky suddenly bit his cousin in the neck, “it hit him in a very vulnerable spot. If it had hit his arm or something it would have been bad,” but wouldn't have cost him his life, Miller said.

“It happened so fast,” he said. “We did what we had to do to stop the bear. It took a matter of seconds to get him off, but it was too late.”

Handlers used pepper spray to subdue the bear. Paramedics arriving shortly after the initial emergency call

were unable to revive Stephan Miller. An autopsy was under way Thursday.

A 911 recording documented desperate efforts to save him before paramedics arrived.

“He's bleeding heavily from his neck. ... We need someone here immediately,” a woman told the operator, who directed emergency procedures while determining that the bear was contained.

“We gotcha; holding on to you, man,” a male voice said before it was clear Stephan Miller was no longer breathing.

Matt Wilson, 18, a neighbor who lives up a dirt road from the animal center, said Randy Miller went to Wilson's family's house after the attack for comfort. Miller told Wilson's family his staff had been filming an advertisement when the bear attacked.

“They were filming it and the bear started licking (Stephan Miller's) face and then all of a sudden it just bit him,” Wilson said. “He was just really upset and didn't know why it happened.”

Randy Miller said he doesn't know what will happen to Rocky, who has performed in commercials and recently appeared in the Will Ferrell movie “Semi-Pro.” In the meantime, the 700-pound, 7 1/2-foot-tall bear remains in his cage.

The state Department of Fish and Game investigated the attack but will not decide whether the bear will be eutha-

nized because the attack occurred outside its jurisdiction on a private site, department spokesman Harry Morse said.

State occupational safety officials are trying to determine if they have jurisdiction, said Kate McGuire, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Industrial Relations.

The center had its permits and was up to code, said San Bernardino Sheriff's spokeswoman Jodi Miller, who is not related to Randy or Stephan Miller.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals provided copies of federal inspection reports that noted some problems at the site in 2001, 2005 and 2007, but a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Agriculture called them “very minor issues” that were quickly corrected.

In its past four inspections, officials with the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service found no non-compliances, said the spokeswoman, Jessica Milteer.

The facility also houses two brown bears and a black bear, along with various snakes and reptiles, an alligator, crocodile, leopard, mountain lion, four African lions and four tigers.

Randy Miller built his Hollywood career by training wild animals to perform on cue and safely recreate legendary animal attacks for Discovery Channel and National Geographic documentary producers, including the tiger mauling of illusionist Roy Horn during a Siegfried & Roy show in Las Vegas.

“I'm not blaming the animal,” Miller said of Rocky. “We're fast and efficient if there's a problem. These kinds of scenes I do—we're putting ourselves in a vulnerable position a lot.”

Hollywood filmmaker Nick Palumbo said he sometimes visited Stephan and Randy Miller while they worked with the grizzly.

“Stephan was my best friend. Anybody who killed him I would want to kill, but I don't believe the bear meant to hurt him,” said Palumbo, adding that he was torn about what should happen to Rocky.

“Stephan loved the bear. He and his cousin raised it,” Palumbo said.

He said his friend left behind a wife and two children.

Colleagues describe Randy Miller



Rocky the grizzly bear is seen at the Forever Wild animal sanctuary in Phelan, Calif. in Nov. 2007.

as a top-class trainer dedicated to safety and the care of his animals. Stephan Miller was also an experienced trainer, said Chemaine Almquist, founder of an exotic animal center in Phelan called Forever Wild and a friend of the Millers.

“He's always on the ball, making sure everything is extra safe,” she said of Randy Miller. “He's always the one

who says, ‘You've got to do this, check the locks twice, you gotta wear pepper spray.’ When I first found out, I was ready to throw up.”

The remote Predators in Action campus is tucked off a private, dirt road high in the snow-capped San Bernardino Mountains, a two-hour drive from Los Angeles. Its only neighbors are a few vacation cabins and a campground.

## Georgia judge who gave blacks-only lecture teams with Cosby

**ATLANTA** (AP)—A Georgia judge who kicked whites out of his courtroom while he lectured black defendants is getting a comedian's help in delivering his stern message.

Bill Cosby joined Superior Court Judge Marvin Arrington at a forum Thursday night for at-risk youths from the Atlanta area. Both men are black, and Cosby himself has made waves by criticizing the black community.

The comedian spoke to the predominantly black audience at Benjamin Mays High School about the importance of education and family.

“Families: where old people put the rules out without profanity,” Cosby told the invitation-only gathering of about 500 people, including teenagers judged by juvenile authorities as being “at risk.”

Cosby lamented a culture of drugs and permissive sex.

“The problem with teenage pregnancy is the planning of it. There was no planning,” he said.

“Let's get with these teenage children and their sex and having sex. I'm telling you, you've got to talk to your children.”

He dismissed critics of his approach who have said that he is airing dirty laundry.

“That's crazy,” he said. “There are black people who have to walk around this dirty laundry.”

Arrington said Cosby contacted him two weeks ago and said, “I want to come to Atlanta and help you with your fight to try to turn these young people around.”

“These young people are worth saving,” the judge said.

Arrington recounted a litany of criminal defendants who come before him in court, including young men who kill during drug deals and a father who slept with his daughters.

“Somewhere, you can cannot tolerate this uncivilized conduct,” Arrington said.

The judge has admitted he shouldn't have made white people leave as he tried to scare straight some young black men at the March 27 court session. He said he wanted only to get the defendants' attention without dressing them down in front of whites.

Arrington said it was frustrating to see a stream of young criminals in his courtroom.

“You guys are destroying your lives,” he told them in what he called a “fireside chat.” “Black people, please turn your life around!”

Arrington has drawn comparisons to Cosby, who has gotten praise and criticism for saying that some black adults are not providing proper guidance.

“You've got to teach your children how to think,” he told a crowd of several hundred last year in Philadelphia. “You watch one blow the other one's head off and how can you feel good about yourself?”

Most recently, the 70-year-old Cosby, whose adult son was murdered in 1997, has recorded a hip-hop album with subject matter including the value of an education and self-respect.

The album is “the opposite of what I think is the profanity for no particular reason, the misogyny for no particular reason,” he said last week. “It really looks at the frustration and the anger that a young man may have.”

## Huckabee writing book on his failed presidential bid

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** (AP)—Two weeks after the next president is elected, Mike Huckabee will publish a book sharing details on his failed bid for the White House and offering his vision for remodeling the conservative movement.

Sentinel, a conservative imprint of Penguin Group (USA), said Wednesday it will publish the former Arkansas governor and one-time Republican presidential hopeful's next book, to be released Nov. 18.

The book, not yet titled, will offer an insider's view of Huckabee's campaign and also offer his vision for the future, publishers said Wednesday.

“There's going to be a lot of untold stories and untold anecdotes,” said Will Weisser, Sentinel's associate publisher. “But the other part is the governor's vision for the future of American politics and society and what should we be working towards? How does the (Republican) party become more unified?”

Huckabee, who served as governor

for 10 1/2 years, dropped out of the race for the Republican nomination last month after John McCain won enough delegates to clinch the party's nomination. Despite a financially strapped campaign, Huckabee won the leadoff caucuses in Iowa and seven other states.

The publishing company wouldn't say how much Huckabee will be paid.

Weisser acknowledged that they've agreed to the book at a time when Huckabee's political future is uncertain. The former governor recently formed a political action committee to raise money for McCain and other Republicans, and has also been mentioned as a potential running mate for the Arizona senator.

“We kind of had to think about that because obviously it's possible he could be the running mate,” Weisser said. “It could certainly be hard to do a traditional book promotion if he's the vice president-elect. But some people here have pointed out

that that's a nice problem to have.”

In 2006, shortly before leaving office due to term limits and announcing his presidential bid, Huckabee published “From Hope to Higher Ground,” which offered a preview of his policy proposals on areas ranging from taxes to education.

Huckabee, who lost more than 100 pounds after being diagnosed with diabetes, also published a book offering his tips on weight loss and healthy living called “Quit Digging Your Grave With a Knife and Fork.”

Sarah Huckabee, the former governor's daughter and executive director of his PAC, said her father was on the road and not immediately available for comment. She said her father was still writing the book.

Sentinel, which was founded in 2003, is also publishing former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's memoir to be released in 2010.



Huckabee



# Winehouse arrested on suspicion of assault

**LONDON (AP)**—Amy Winehouse was arrested on suspicion of assault Friday following reports that she scuffled with two men during a wild night out, Sky News television reported.

The 24-year-old soul diva, who recently entered rehab after years of erratic behavior and canceled concerts, arrived at a central London police station to answer questions relating to the alleged incident, her representatives said.

Police didn't directly confirm

that Winehouse was in custody, saying only that a 24-year-old woman was being held on suspicion of assault. British authorities don't usually name suspects until they have been charged.

Winehouse didn't say anything to assembled photographers and cameramen as she walked into the station late Friday afternoon. Sky News said she would spend the night in custody.

A man was quoted in tabloid newspapers as saying he was

hit by Winehouse when he got in her way while she was playing pool at a bar in the Camden neighborhood and then head-butted another who was trying to hail her a cab in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Winehouse and her husband, Blake Fielder-Civil, were arrested in the Norwegian city of Bergen in October and held overnight on charges of drug possession. A video of her allegedly smoking crack hit the Internet shortly before she won

five Grammys this year for her critically acclaimed album "Back to Black."

She was arrested in London in December on suspicion of attempting to interfere with a court case involving Fielder-Civil, but earlier this year police said prosecutors were no longer pursuing the affair.

Fielder-Civil faces charges of perverting the course of justice stemming from a case in which he is accused of assaulting a barman.



British singer Amy Winehouse arrives at a police station in London, Friday April 25, 2008, where she voluntarily appeared to be questioned in connection with an alleged assault that took place in the north London neighborhood of Camden.

## Times columnist hit by pie at Brown

**PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)**—A student faces disciplinary action after two people threw green whipped cream pies at New York Times columnist and author Thomas L. Friedman as he began an Earth Day speech at Brown University.

A video of the Tuesday incident posted on YouTube.

com shows Friedman telling the audience, "It's great to be back here at Brown," shortly before Margaree Little, a senior English literature major, and an un-

identified man storm the stage.

Friedman managed to avoid most of the cream, although his shirt and the back of his head were splattered and he appears to slip on cream on the stage. He left the stage to clean himself off before resuming his speech.

He said Friday he was not pressing charges.

"I'm leaving it for Brown to decide what kind of values they want to uphold on their campus," he said.

Little, who's scheduled to graduate in December, said she was undergoing disciplinary action by the dean's office and expulsion was "not off the table."

She declined to identify the man who was with her or to say whether he was a Brown student.

Little, 22, said Friedman's brand of environmentalism is a "sham" because she believes he supports things like biofuels that reduce the availability of food and displace thousands in Haiti and other developing nations. Friedman, an environmentalist, has written about taking a careful approach and

ensuring biodiversity is preserved in areas where biofuel crops are grown.

Little also said she and her copie thrower wanted to open up a dialogue about what it really means to have free speech on an elite college campus like Brown.

She said they considered passing out fliers or preparing questions to ask Friedman during a question-and-answer session, but ultimately decided to take a more significant step.

"I think it was successful in that those conversations are happening now in a pretty engaged way," she said.



Friedman

## Threat of actors strike boosts film production

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Feature film production in the Los Angeles area jumped 11 percent in the first three months of the year as studios moved to get ahead of a possible actors strike.

FilmL.A. Inc., an agency that tracks on-location filming, said the increase came in comparison to the first quarter of 2007.

"The studios are trying to get production wrapped before June 30," the expiration date for the current Screen Actors Guild contract, Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp., said Friday.

A film shoot interrupted by a strike would be a "very expensive proposition," he said.

SAG and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers held their 10th day of negotiations on Friday as another actors union, the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, waited in the wings for its contract talks to begin on May 5.

AFTRA delayed the start of its talks for a week to give SAG a better chance to complete a three-year deal covering movies and prime-time television.

Kyser said the reprieve for SAG gave many workers in Hollywood hope that there won't be a repeat of the 100-day strike by writers that brought the entertainment industry to a standstill.

## Madonna shows Malawi docu at Tribeca

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Madonna's harrowing new documentary on Malawi is clearly designed to draw attention to the poverty-stricken nation's plight and help to its people. But the superstar doesn't think much about enlisting aid from the U.S. government.

"I don't know what our government does period, instead of getting us in more debt and blowing up countries," she told the audience at the Tribeca Film Festival after premiering the film "I Am Because We Are" on Thursday night. The packed audience included close friend Rosie O'Donnell and Natalie Portman.

Madonna produced and narrated the film on Malawi after she traveled there, where she met the toddler David Banda, whom she took home and is in the process of adopting.

The film shows the abject poverty that children face, how the AIDS crisis is claiming lives, the deplorable conditions that cause disease and other hindrances to Malawian life. However, the film urges people to volunteer and tries to offer hope.

After the film, Madonna and director Nathan Rissman took questions from the audience - one of which was from a filmmaker who wondered what the federal government could do. Madonna replied that change should come from the people, not the government.

"It's our own job to change that and I think it's a fool's errand to rely on the government to change things."



Exec. Producer/Writer Madonna arrives at the premiere of the documentary film "I Am Because We Are" during the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival on Thursday April 24, 2008, in New York.

Madonna was also asked about the difficulty in adopting children from Malawi. Her adoption of David with husband Guy Ritchie has yet to be approved, though the boy has been living with the family since the fall of 2006.

"It's a new concept, the concept of adoption, consequently it's very very time consuming," she said. "I guess if you really want to do it you have to be will-

ing to walk through the fire."

Madonna said she is looking for a distribution deal so the film can be seen in more theaters, and hopes to get it on DVD soon. "Fingers crossed, that will be happening soon."

"I Am Because We Are," is not Madonna's only project these days—her new album "Hard Candy" is released in stores on Tuesday."

## Movies of note at this year's Tribeca

- **"Baghead"**: Mark and Jay Duplass are part of the "mumblecore" movement specializing in authenticity and awkwardness. Their funny "The Puffy Chair" proved that they're young filmmakers to keep an eye on. "Baghead," which played at Sundance, takes them into horror.
- **"Trucker"**: Distributors will be watching this buzzed-about film starring Michelle Monaghan as a carousing truck driver whose 11-year-old son suddenly shows up.
- **"Theater of War"**: John Walter ("How To Draw a Bunny") documents the scene behind the scenes of a Bertolt Brecht play with Tony Kushner and Meryl Streep.
- **"Lou Reed's Berlin"**: Julian Schnabel ("The Diving Bell and the Butterfly") films a 2006 concert by Lou Reed in which he plays his 1973 album "Berlin."
- **"The Caller"**: Frank Langella stars as a whistle-blowing executive at a corrupt energy corporation.
- **"Finding Amanda"**: Television writer-producer Peter Tolan ("The Larry Sanders Show," "Rescue Me") helms his first feature, a comedy about a TV writer (Matthew Broderick) who makes a desperate trip to save his niece from prostitution and fix his own life.
- **"Man On Wire"**: This Sundance hit is a portrait of French daredevil Philippe Petit, who walked a tightrope between the Twin Towers in 1974.
- **"Chevolution"**: Documents Che Guevara's strange journey from Cuban revolutionary to ubiquitous pop culture icon.
- **"Idiots and Angels"**: Bill Plympton, nominated twice for the Oscar for best animated short, expands his unique and surreal drawings into an animated feature.
- **"The Secret of the Grain"**: This story about a family of Maghrebi immigrants in southern France won best picture at the Cesars, France's Oscars.
- **"Gunnin' for that No. 1 Spot"**: The Beastie Boys' Adam Yauch films a documentary about a high school basketball all-star game at New York's historic Rucker Park.
- **"President to Remember: In the Company of John F. Kennedy"**: Robert Drew compiles behind-the-scenes footage of John F. Kennedy. Alec Baldwin narrates.
- **"Katyn"**: Director Andrzej Wajda tells the story of the Katyn massacre of 1940, in which 12,000 Polish soldiers were systematically murdered by Russia's Red Army. It was nominated for an Academy Award for best foreign film, but is still without distribution.
- **"War Inc."**: John Cusack returns to "Grosse Pointe Blank" territory playing a hit man operating in a war zone that doubles as a corporate marketplace. With his sister Joan, Marisa Tomei and Hilary Duff, it's a zany satire of the confluence of war, capitalism and politics.

**ALSO OF NOTE:** "The Auteur," "Elite Squad," "Old Man Bebo," "Bart Got a Room," "Somers Town," "The Wackness," "Lake City," "The Zen of Bobby V," and "Confessionsofa Ex-Doofus-ItchyFoot-ed Mutha"



# Damon, Moore put baby hand-me-downs on eBay for charity



In this March 9, 2008 file photo, Matt Damon arrives for the Empire Film Awards at the Grosvenor House hotel in London.

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Matt Damon's diaper bag, Julianne Moore's high chair, Elisabeth Hasselbeck's car seat and other celebrity baby hand-me-downs are going up for auction on eBay.

Famous parents donated their used baby items to Johnson's Celebrity Hand Me Down Auction, which will benefit such charities as March of Dimes, Save the Children, Zero to Three and Baby Buggy. The online auction begins April 29 and ends May 9.

Damon provided his black, messenger-style baby bag while Moore, a mother of two, donated a beachwood highchair that she calls her daughter Liv's special "sit at the table with

the grown-ups" chair. Mariska Hargitay from "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" gave an Adidas track suit outfit worn by her son, August.

"It is important to pass certain things on from one generation to the next," Hasselbeck, who donated a car seat, said in a statement. "I still have a children's bracelet that my mother gave to me, which I will pass on to my daughter one day. There is something priceless about having certain things around you which tell a story."

Other celebrities participating in the auction include "Shark" actress Jeri Ryan and recent mother Elisabeth Rohm.

## NYC jury to hear accused Uma stalker's statements

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A jury will hear statements a former mental patient accused of stalking Uma Thurman made to police.

State Supreme Court Justice Gregory Carro denied a defense motion to exclude the material - including a letter he wrote to the "Kill Bill" actress and e-mails he sent to her father - in which defendant Jack Jordan expresses love for Thurman.

Thurman, who also starred in "Pulp Fiction" and "The Producers," is expected to testify at Jordan's trial, which begins Monday in Manhattan.

Jordan was arrested in October 2007 on misdemeanor charges of stalking and aggravated harassment. He was accused of following and trying to contact Thurman for more than two years.

Prosecutors say Jordan, 37, once tried to get into Thurman's trailer on a Manhattan movie set and appeared several times at her Greenwich Village house.

He also sent her a letter com-

plaining that he had been confined to a mental hospital and was being forced to take medication, and he sent her father four e-mails expressing his love for her, prosecutors said. It wasn't clear how he got the address.

While being questioned in Manhattan, Jordan told detectives that he saw Thurman on a movie theater screen and when their eyes met, he knew they had a connection, that their relationship was meant to be.

Jordan's lawyer, George Vomvolakis, tried to keep the statements out of the trial on the grounds that police illegally obtained them by promising Jordan he could go home as soon as he talked to them about Thurman, 37.

Vomvolakis also argued that if Carro allowed the letter in as evidence, "the jury might think they were doing a disservice to Ms. Thurman if they acquitted him. They would think this is a crazy man," and that she could be in danger.



In this April 15, 2008 file photo, actress Uma Thurman arrives at the Cinema Society screening of "The Life Before Her Eyes" in New York.

## Newlywed Gary Coleman goes to 'Divorce Court'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—The honeymoon is over for Gary Coleman and his new bride.

The 40-year-old actor and his 22-year-old wife, Shannon Price, are set to appear on TV's "Divorce Court" on May 1 and 2. The couple wed in August after meeting on the set of the 2006 comedy "Church Ball."

Among the problems the pair discusses with Judge Lynn Toler are Coleman's anger and intimacy issues. Coleman and Price agree they have "ugly" monthly fights.

"If he doesn't get his way, he throws a temper tantrum like a five-year-old does," Price says, according to a transcript of the

show provided to The Associated Press. "He like stomps the floor and yells, 'Meehhhh,' and starts throwing stuff around. He bashes his head in the wall, too."

Coleman says he gets frustrated because "the male is always the bad guy."

"When I try to state my case or explain things to her or try to get her to understand my point of view," Coleman says, "my point of view doesn't matter."

Price also complains that Coleman has no friends and inexplicably disappears from home in the middle of the night. When Toler presses him, Coleman admits he is negative.



This photo released courtesy of Twentieth Television shows actor Gary Coleman, left, and his wife Shannon Price on the set of Twentieth Television's "Divorce Court," on March 13, 2008, in Los Angeles.

## Boy's long hair makes him a target of ridicule

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** Please help me deliver a message to a family here about their son, who is a fifth-grader in the school my children also attend.

These parents are well-known. They refuse to allow their son to get his hair cut, and it has caused him to withdraw from sports at school. He told some of his friends that he would like to get his hair cut because the other kids are calling him a girl. He just sits at home and plays games on TV. He's afraid to let his parents know about the teasing.

Even some of the adults are afraid to talk to them.

I believe this to be a form of child abuse. The boy's parents read your column in the local paper. Please help him because the name-calling is bound to get worse as he gets older.

ANOTHER PARENT IN TENNESSEE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR PARENT:** Surely these "well-known" parents love their son. Sometimes children are reluctant to confide to their parents that they're being teased because they are too ashamed. Because the boy is the target of ridicule, his teacher or the principal should have a talk with the mother or father. However, if they are too intimidated to raise the subject, then you should.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** A friend and I attended a bridal shower of a friend's daughter. After the young woman opened her gifts, we were escorted to another room where blank note cards were strewn on a coffee table, surrounded by envelopes and stamps. The hostess instructed us to write on these folded cards our names and what we had given the bride-to-be.

The hostess told us to write: "Dear Mary (using our own names, of course), Thank you for the nice afghan" (or whatever we had given), and place the card in one of the envelopes. We were then told to address and stamp the envelopes, but not to seal them so (I assume) the "too busy" bride-to-be could sign her name.

As I foolishly followed these ridiculous instructions, I was tempted to thank myself for the 30-minute drive I had made in each direction to purchase a gift, and the 45-minute drive I made to attend the shower.

How stupid are we going to feel when the "thank-yous," in our own handwriting, show up in the mail? My son says I should refuse the letter.

And do you want to know the "topper"? I asked the bride-to-be before leaving when her wedding was. Get this—it's in two days. I am not even invited to the wedding!

What's wrong with this generation? Please shed some light on this. Thanks, Abby. I feel better now that I've vented -- stupid, but better.

FEELING USED IN KANSAS

**DEAR FEELING USED:** Nothing is wrong with "this generation." What you have described is a family that never learned basic good manners. Rather than an "afghan"—or whatever your gift was—the bride-to-be would have been better served to have received a book on etiquette.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** What are the proper uses of "J.D." and "Esq.," especially when it comes to signature lines sent via e-mail?

LIVONIA, MICH., READER

**DEAR READER:** The titles are used on both snail mail and e-mail. Some lawyers use the honorific "Esq." after their name. Others prefer the initials "J.D.," which stand for Juris Doctor (Doctor of Law). This is a degree conferred by a law school, unusually after three years of study. And many spell out the title by using "Attorney at Law" after their names.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

## Lachey to host 'High School Musical' reality show

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Nick Lachey is going back to high school, musically.

The 34-year-old singer has signed on to host the upcoming ABC reality show "High School Musical: Summer Session," inspired by the Disney Channel phenomenon costarring Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale and Vanessa Hudgens, ABC said this week.

The program debuts July 20, and will air Sundays and Mondays for three weeks before settling into a Monday timeslot.

The competition will heat up as finalists participate in a summer music program: one winner will "receive the oppor-

tunity of a lifetime, becoming a part of 'High School Musical' history," according to ABC.

Just what that entails - quality time with Efron? - hasn't been announced yet. The champ will be named in mid-September.

Open casting calls for "High School Musical: Summer Session" will take place Sunday at Long Beach Arena in Long Beach, Calif., and

May 7 at Champion Stadium at Disney's Wide Worlds of Sports Complex in Orlando, Fla. The age range for contestants is 16 through 22.

The audition process will be featured in early episodes of the show, ABC said.



Lachey



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# Parker scores 41 as Spurs take 3-0 lead vs Suns

**PHOENIX (AP)**—The San Antonio-Phoenix series was supposed to be a spectacular first-round matchup of potential NBA champions. Instead, it's become a Spurs smackdown. Tony Parker had a career-high 41 points along with 12 assists and San Antonio routed the Suns 115-99 on Friday night to take a 3-0 series lead.

The defending NBA champion Spurs never trailed in winning their ninth consecutive playoff game and 13th of 14, dating to last season. They can complete the sweep on Sunday in Phoenix. No NBA team has come back from 0-3 to win a series.

It's the first three-game losing streak for the Suns this season.

Phoenix acquired Shaquille O'Neal to better match up with the Spurs, but the Suns are one loss away from being swept in a seven-game series for the first time since the Los Angeles Lakers did it in the 1988-89 Western Conference finals.

Tim Duncan added 23 points and 10 rebounds and Manu Ginobili scored 20 points in the Spurs' fourth consecutive playoff road victory and ninth in their last 11.

But Parker did the most damage, often on a pick-and-roll that has flustered Phoenix all series. With three different defenders trying to stop him, he made 17-of-26 shots.

The Suns cut the lead to 13 points twice in the fourth quarter, the last on Raja Bell's 3-pointer with 7:35 to play, but Parker countered with his first 3 of the game and the Suns were finished.

The packed house in the Suns' first home game of the playoffs booed San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich's "Hack-a-Shaq" tactics in the first half, but they turned on the home team when the Spurs took a 23-point lead on Ginobili's 3-pointer with 5 1/2 minutes left in the third quarter.

Amare Stoudemire had 28 points and 11 rebounds to lead Phoenix, which was last swept in a series when Portland did it in a best-of-five matchup in 1998-99. Leandro Barbosa scored 20 points and O'Neal, who finished 9-for-17 from the free throw line, had 19. Steve Nash had seven points on 3-of-8 shooting with nine assists.

Phoenix took big early leads in the first two games in San Antonio. The Spurs were in control of this one from the start.

San Antonio made 10 of its first 13 shots, including five of six jumpers by Parker. A 17-4 outburst capped by Parker's 22-footer put the Spurs up 27-12.

Popovich went to the "Hack-a-Shaq" ploy, having Jacque Vaughn foul the big guy three straight times late in the first.

San Antonio Spurs Manu Ginobili, of Argentina, left, rubs the head of teammate Tony Parker, of France, right, as Tim Duncan watches the final seconds against the Phoenix Suns during the fourth quarter of Game 3 of an NBA first round playoff basketball series Friday, April 25, 2008 in Phoenix.

AP

O'Neal was called for crossing the free throw line on his first two tries, missed his next two, then made one of two.

Kurt Thomas, a surprise starter, converted a three-point play with .3 seconds left in the first quarter to put San Antonio up 33-19.

Barbosa scored 10 quick points as Phoenix cut the lead to 37-31 with 8:05 left in the half, but the Spurs scored the next seven points.

Popovich returned to purposely fouling O'Neal late in the second quarter after Brent Barry's 3-pointer put San Antonio ahead 57-43 with 58 seconds left in the half.

O'Neal made three of four free throws, but Parker's driving layup at the buzzer put the Spurs up 61-47.

Parker scored the first five points of the second half, including a three-point play that made it 66-47. Consecutive outside jumpers by Duncan put the Spurs up 70-50, and the boos began.

## Sixers 95, Pistons 75

At Philadelphia, Philadelphia dominated the Detroit Pistons in a 95-75 that gave the 76ers a 2-1 lead in their first-round NBA playoff series.

Andre Miller scored 21 points and the Sixers led by as many as 24 points in their first home playoff game for three years.

The Pistons led the league with just 11 turnovers per game but committed 23 in this game, easily their season high. The 76ers scored 29 points off the turnovers and scored 40 points in the paint.

Philadelphia broke the game open in the third quarter, ending it with a 22-9 run.

Game 4 is Sunday in Philadelphia.

## Mavericks 97, Hornets 87

In Dallas, the home side finally made New Orleans look like playoff novices, winning Game 3 to get right back into the series.

Dirk Nowitzki had 32 points, 19 rebounds and six assists for the Mavericks.

New Orleans cut a 17-point deficit to 90-83 with 2 minutes left.

Game 4 is Sunday night in Dallas, where the Hornets haven't won since 1998.



## Hansbrough returns; Ellington, Lawson declare for NBA draft

Tyler Hansbrough wants to make one more run at the national championship. The North Carolina star will have to wait a little longer to find out whether two of his high-scoring teammates will be back to help him.

The Associated Press national player of the year said Friday that he will return for his senior year. However, sophomores Ty Lawson and Wayne Ellington will declare for the NBA draft, though they won't hire agents - leaving open the possibility of their return.

Hansbrough, a 6-foot-9 forward, averaged 22.6 points and 10.2 rebounds. He led the Tar Heels (36-3) to the winningest season in school history and the Final Four while sweeping the major national player of the year awards. He already has qualified to become the eighth player in school history to have his jersey retired and can add several more records to his resume in his final season.

He will be the first returning AP national player of the year since LSU's Shaquille O'Neal in 1991.

"I love my collegiate experience and want to finish my four years here, then move on to my next dream of playing in the NBA," Hansbrough said in a statement. "I am very relieved that this decision is behind us and I can concentrate on my academic work and improving my game for next season."

His return wasn't a big surprise considering he has long talked about his drive to win a national championship before he leaves Chapel Hill. He has focused on his game with that same determination, earning the nickname "Psycho T" with his relentless inside play and work ethic. He has thrived by scoring in the paint despite contact and getting to the foul line throughout his career, but also steadily increased his shooting range last season.

He enters next year ranked second on the program's career list with 2,168 points, putting him 122 behind Phil Ford for the record. He also is within reach of the Atlantic Coast Conference career mark set by Duke's J.J. Redick (2,769 points) in 2006.

With Hansbrough back, the Tar Heels figure to remain among the favorites to win the ACC and reach another Final Four. Now he'll have to wait to find out whether the team's second- and third-leading scorers from last season will join him.

Ellington, a 6-4 wing guard, averaged nearly 17 points per game as the Tar Heels' top perimeter scorer. Lawson averaged about 13 while directing coach Roy Williams' fast-paced offense. If the duo comes back, the Tar Heels would return their top eight players while adding one of the nation's best recruiting classes.

Both Ellington and Lawson

said in statements that they would remain in good academic standing while working out for NBA teams to learn more about their draft potential. Players who declare but do not hire an agent have until June 16 to withdraw their names.

"I'm not dying to leave here, but playing in the NBA is another dream I have," Ellington said.

Coach Roy Williams said he contacted more teams than ever before - he put the number at 18 by the end of last week - to find out about where the trio would be picked.

"I want what is best for each individual and each individual player is different and has different factors to consider," Williams said. "We will continue to help Ty and Wayne with the draft process and give them all the support they need in making any future decisions related to staying in the draft or returning to Carolina." (AP)

## Pacman-to-Cowboys deal still not done



**IRVING, Texas (AP)**—The Dallas Cowboys and Tennessee Titans are on the clock with their

Adam "Pacman" Jones trade.

How fast that clock is ticking depends on who you talk to.

The deal still wasn't finalized Friday, two days after the teams agreed in principle and the eve of the NFL draft. The Titans are supposed to get Dallas' fourth-round pick and another pick next year for the rights to the suspended cornerback.

"Clearly it's got to be done

tomorrow or else it becomes academic," said Jones' agent, Manny Arora.

Not so fast, says Cowboys spokesman Rich Dalrymple. He said the teams were still working out details and that the deal didn't have to be complete before the draft.

The fourth round of the draft isn't until Sunday.

"There's no set timetable or anything," Dalrymple said.

The Titans declined to provide any update Friday on the trade's progress. On Thursday, general manager Mike Rein-

feldt cautioned that it was a complicated deal.

If the Jones deal goes through, the Cowboys still don't know if he'll play for them this season. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has said he'll decide whether to reinstate Jones by training camp in July and that any trade won't influence him.

Jones has been arrested six times and has been involved in 12 incidents requiring police action since being the top defensive player taken in the 2005 draft. The accumulation led Goodell to suspend Jones for the 2007 season.

If Goodell doesn't let Pacman return in '08, the Cowboys would get back an '09 pick. They're also expected to be giving him a non-guaranteed contract, making it easier to distance themselves from him, if necessary.

The Cowboys were an intriguing draft-day topic before the Jones deal dragged on.

With two first-round picks, owner Jerry Jones could be at his wheeling-and-dealing best. Dallas would like to add a younger but proven receiver to go with aging veterans Terrell Owens and Terry Glenn.







# The Week in Sports

## 'The Crank', AFC officials grab headlines



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, middle, won two medals including a gold in the recently concluded Naga Jujitsu Championships in Washington, D.C.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho in action during the recently concluded Naga Jujitsu Championships in Washington, D.C.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Inter-Godfather's raise the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Men's League Cup during the awards ceremony held last April 19.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Men's National Football Team players pose with Sejoong Tour Mall Saipan Branch director/ manager Choi Kyung-Sil, right, after she outfitted the Blue Ayuyus with uniforms and shorts for their upcoming match against Guam in the 2nd Marianas Cup.



FRANK TUDELA

Champions capt. Rolly Trajeco and Annie Legaspi of *Sea Craft IV* pose with Saipan Fisherman Association officials and organizers of the 4th Annual Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby last April 19 at the Smiling Cove Marina weighing station.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan human resource manager Maggie Sablan, left, and training manager Tara White join Carl Esdreton in raising up the HANMI Cup perpetual trophy.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the Saipan leg of the Jazy Cup Tour de Marianas prepare for the start of the race last April 13.

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Saipan's very own Frank "The Crank" Camacho and two officials from the Asian Football Confederation made sports headlines this past week.

Camacho won two medals including a gold in the recently concluded Naga Jujitsu Championships in Washington, D.C. Camacho broke out of the local mixed martial arts scene under the Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym representing both his home gym and the Lloyd Irvin MMA Academy in the 2008 Virginia Grappling Championship.

He competed in the 180-189 lbs weight class winning the gold in the gi division and adding the bronze in the no gi.

AFC officials Kaita Sugihara and Biplav Gautam, meanwhile, were on island last week to assess the programs started by the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association.

The rapid development of football in the CNMI, almost two years after NMIFA's creation, brought smiles to Sugihara and Gautam.

Sugihara is the AFC development officer while Gautam is the AFC Vision Asia Division development officer.

In other sports news, *Sea Craft IV* topped the 4th Annual

Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby after captain Rolly Trajeco and crewmen Annie Legaspi and Liody Bukid reeled in a 24.3-lb. mahi-mahi caught in Tinian waters.

*Tweety Bird* of captain Eric David and crewmen Gonzalo Pangelinan and Tak Nakazoto placed second with a mahi-mahi that tipped the scales at 24.25 lbs.

Last year's runner-up tandem of Tony Maestro and Manding Legaspi finished third this time after *DJ Fish Mobile* caught a 22.35-lb. mahi-mahi. The two split the \$500 third place prize.

Inter-Godfather's won the 2008 Men's Winter Football League title after having a league-best 7-1-1 win-loss-draw record in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's first league for the year to claim the NMIFA Men's League Cup in the six-team field.

FC Arirang took runner-up honors with a 6-2-1 slate while Onwel, which also earned the sportsmanship award, placed third after having a 4-3-2 mark.

The past week also saw the continuation of games in the SBA Open 8-Ball League, 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League, Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League, 9th Annual Pacific Islands Club-Miller Lite Spring Co-ed 4-Person Beach Volleyball League, and the Saipan Little League Baseball Association.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fiesta-Grand players pose with the HANMI Cup perpetual trophy during an appreciation banquet held recently in their honor at Fiesta Resort & Spa's The Bund. Joining the players in the photo are supporters and executives of the two hotels. After winning the pennant with a league-best 11-1 record, Fiesta-Grand capped the season with an 87-72 title win over Pacific Islands Club in the do-or-die championship last April 5 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to win the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup-Inter-Hotel Basketball League.



JON PEREZ

Tanapag Falcons hurler Tako Camacho throws a pitch to Jets shortstop Shane Yamada in their Big League game in the Saipan Little League last Sunday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.





### 'The Crank', AFC officials grab headlines

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

### Parker scores 41 as Spurs take 3-0 lead vs Suns

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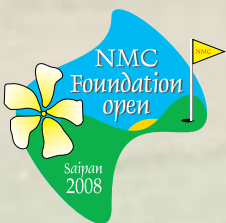
# Park is 2008 NMC Open champ

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

**J**oung Hoon Park bested a tough field in the men's Championship Flight to win the 6th Annual NMC Foundation Open yesterday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Park tamed the west course of the Kagman golf facility shooting a three-over-par 75, to enjoy a two-shot lead over perennial title contender Jeff Taylor and Dan Singh, who battled it out for second place in a scorecard playoff.

Taylor and Singh both finished with a 77 but the former claimed second place via scorecard tiebreak while the latter settled for third.



Park also foiled last year's champion Jess Wabol's

bid at winning a third straight NMC Foundation Open crown after the 2006 and 2007 titlist finished five shots back in fourth place with an 80.

Park came out on top in a tough Championship Flight group that included Taylor and Wabol. They were in the same group that teed off at 7am.

George Taguchi joined Wabol from fourth to fifth place as both of them shot an 80.

Other Championship Flight golfers were CNMI junior golfer Charlie Jo (82), Andy Nepai (82), Manny Alvarez (83), Wan Sub Lee (94), and Gus Camacho (94).

Chang Kyun Kim matched Park's score in the A Flight with a 75 to beat Ho Sung Lee. Dominic von Siebenthal placed third after beating Federico Flores in



Joung Hoon Park makes a putt in hole No. 12 in yesterday's 6th Annual NMC Foundation Open at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

a scorecard playoff after both of them shot an 80.

Joe Demapan topped the B Flight beating three others by one stroke. Demapan scored a 78 to beat Ben Jones, Jay Muna, and teenage sensation Leina Kim.

Muna was knocked out after the first playoff hole to leave Jones and Kim fighting it out for second place. Jones bested Kim after the playoff at hole No. 2 to claim second place, while Kim settled for third.

The C Flight winner was Min Woo Kim with an 84, while Ray Villagomez ended up in second with an 85. John Terlaje needed a scorecard playoff to beat Frank Guerrero for third place as both of them shot an 87.

Tadashi Umezawa bested traditional Senior's Flight winners Ed Manibusan, Lito Mendoza, Nick Sablan, and Steve Balakrishna. He fired the tournament's best score of 74 for a five-shot win over Balakrishna's 79.

Sablan and Manibusan needed a playoff for third place as both of them shot an 80 with Sablan winning over the former Superior Court associate judge.

Noriko Togawa fired a 75 to claim the Ladies Flight with Sook Chun Keum (78) and Yuko Togawa (82) finishing at second and third.

Me Ae Jeon was the second place finisher in the women's double Peoria while Masayo Miyamoto came in second.

Freddie Cataluña topped the men's double Peoria with Wabol getting some consolation after coming in at second. Yasuhito Irinaka completed the Top 3.

A total of 132 golfers joined the annual tournament with members of local golf associations and a number of off-island par-busters also competing and showing their support for the CNMI's lone tertiary learning institution.

## OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN

Coldeen is a longtime sports journalist in the CNMI and is the news and sports director of the Flame Tree Network.



## Don't Kidd me

**A**fter the first week of the NBA playoffs, here are my observations. Hopefully, they are better than the Knicks.

Tip-off: Kudos to MCV, ABC 7 and CUC for allowing us to see almost all the playoff games. Power outages were minimal. The only games we did not get were the couple shown on NBA-TV which MCV does not carry. That is the same situation that happened in the NFL last season with NFL-TV. A cable company must purchase a season-long package in order to obtain the rights to those games, which they then pass on to the customer. Even customers who do not care about the NFL or NBA would get saddled with the extra charges. Besides, the best games are shown on the other networks.

Mark Cuban rolled the dice and got snake eyes. Jason Kidd is one of the greatest point guards of all time, a sure-fire Hall of Famer. Wonderful. Too bad for the Mavericks he is past his prime. Kidd used to be one of the fastest players in the league. Not any more. He cannot keep up with Chris Paul who is leading the Hornets to the second round. Cuban was hoping Kidd could get him that elusive championship ring, but the window is closing. Like many Stateside homeowners, Cuban committed to a bad mortgage. Rising star Devin Harris and two first round picks were too much to pay for Kidd. The Mavs will pay for that for years to come. After taking a 2-0 lead over the Miami Heat in the NBA Finals a couple years ago, Dallas has taken a slide down Misery Lane. Cuban can't blame anyone except himself.

Steve Kerr pulled a similar move with the Phoenix Suns by trading energetic Shawn Marion for Shaq, the Big Cactus. But unlike Cuban's desperation move, I see Kerr's logic. The run n' gun Suns were not built for the slow-down, defensive-type games that inevitably emerge in the playoffs. They needed some way to get past Tim Duncan and the Spurs. The Suns played the Spurs tough in the first two games but came up short in the fourth quarter. Close, but no cigar. Spurs are one tough hombre. They play with the heart of a champion.

Chris Paul, Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, and Kevin Garnett are all leading their teams to playoff victories which is exactly what MVPs are supposed to do. I refuse to get dragged into a debate as to who is more deserving of the MVP award this season. They are all worthwhile. If I had to vote, I would simply drop their names into a hat, put on a blindfold and pull one name out. You can make strong arguments for each one but I won't argue.

Tracy McGrady is getting a bad rap for not advancing past the first round of the playoffs in six tries. Five of those years, his team was the lower seed. This year, the Rockets are missing two main cogs, Yao and Rafer. I say, get off T-Mac's back.

Finally, someone should arrest the entire Lakers front office for grand larceny. Getting Pau Gasol for a few beads was the steal of the century. If the Lakers do win the championship, and they might, then they should give some rings to Memphis management, or mismanagement in this case.

# San Roque golf fundraiser set for June 28

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 14th Annual San Roque Golf Tournament will be held on June 28 at the Marianas Country Club Golf Resort in Marpi.

The tournament, which is a fundraiser for the church on the northern part of Saipan, will have its five customary flights—Championships, A, B, C, Ladies, and Seniors.

This early organizers have promised that the tournament will be a fulfilling competition for all that participate.

"This year promises to be a rewarding experience for all golfers as prizes and trophies will be awarded in [all five flights]," a statement from the San Roque Parish Council read.

Money raised from the golf tournament this year will be used for planned improvements to the San Roque Church's social hall.

"The generosity and participation of those who have made this tournament as their pilgrimage for the last 13 years are most

welcomed. The San Roque Parish invites those who have not played this event to join this year," the San Roque Parish Council added.

Tee time is set at 12pm with registration set from 10am to 11:30am.

The San Roque Parish Council is also accepting donations in the form of cash or in-kind for prizes. For dona-

tions, call Fr. Bong Lopez at 322-2404 or 285-9121, Tony Cabrera at 322-0417, Felix Sasamoto at 322-1889 or any member of the



San Roque Parish Council.

Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol won the 13th Annual San Roque Golf Tournament held in May 27, 2007, at the Marianas Country Club Golf Resort in Marpi.

Wabol took the top plumb despite firing a two-over par 74 following a 34 in the front and a 40 in the back performance.

Other winners last year were Rick Kautz of A Flight, Fr. Manny Corcuera of B Flight, James N. Babauta of C Flight, Kim Jeong Mi of Ladies Flight, and Joe Sablan of Seniors Flight.